

## **Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council (LTC) Written Representation Issue Specific Hearing 8 – Air Quality, Noise and Vibration, including monitoring and mitigation**

*This is what I, Mary Anne Woolf, had planned to say on behalf of Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council but it did not fit well with the more detailed items on the agenda. However, after listening carefully to the whole hearing, I feel that it is nevertheless important to make our concerns known. The discussion was not reassuring; indeed, it has raised further concerns and questions which are now at the end.*

Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council wants to register concerns about air quality, noise and vibration likely to be caused by the Sizewell C project and the consequential effects on the health of Leiston residents. We continue to press for adequate monitoring and mitigation.

There will be dust created by earth movements at the main construction site and at the other development sites near the town but perhaps of even greater concern are the emissions from HGVs and other vehicles. Traffic emissions are known to have adverse effects on health.

We are also concerned about noise levels from the construction and associated developments and traffic. In the first few years there will be a number of very large and heavy trains travelling through Leiston during the daytime with consequent increase in noise and vibration. This too has the potential to adversely affect our residents' health. Some of those close to the track are over 100 years old and vibration may affect their stability.

We want to be assured that methods used for dust suppression, for example, will not in themselves cause issues. We are also concerned that the changes regarding water strategy will have further adverse impacts on noise (eg from the diesel generator) and air quality from the HGV movements.

We expect robust standards to be set and adhered to; independent monitoring - to include the traffic emissions particularly from HGVs; and effective enforcement. In the Code of Construction Practice, the applicant sets out the planned community forums and a complaints procedure. We are not satisfied with this. We would like the community forums to have the same legal status as the working groups and review groups described in the Deed of Obligation. Furthermore, there should be a link between the community forums and the review groups. This would give local people greater voice in the process.

The complaints procedure outlined in the Code of Construction Practice does not appear to involve any independent scrutiny. Leiston Town Council believes that this would be necessary so that common issues can be identified and addressed rather than complainants being dealt with one by one with the possibility of significant problems being missed.

We have no way of knowing how accurate EDF's predictions as to the effects of noise and vibration and air quality are. Some places, such as King Georges Avenue, are predicted to suffer moderate adverse effects. Most are predicted to suffer adverse effects at a level considered insignificant but our concern is that residents may not experience these effects as insignificant, especially as there may well be other major infrastructure projects going on at the same time resulting in cumulative effects on air quality, noise and vibration. The whole area around the LEEIE must be particularly vulnerable to adverse impacts from noise, vibration and air pollution, given the extent of works on that site – rail terminal, park and ride, caravan site.

We understand that the applicant is building into their plans, working methods and choice of machinery etc primary and tertiary mitigation to minimize adverse effects and rely on regulatory authorities to ensure these are appropriate and applied consistently. However, if the project is approved, we want to ensure that any problems our residents experience, despite these measures, will be adequately addressed and mitigated and compensated for at the time.

*These are the points and questions that arose from the hearing:*

- 1. It is important that baselines are established for air quality, noise and vibration pre-construction – I was left unsure whether this was the case.*
- 2. The smaller particles PM2.5 should be monitored as they are particularly relevant to traffic pollution which is a particular concern of Leiston councillors. More frequent monitoring than that required for annual averages might be helpful. Some random checks to pick up significant spikes might be useful. Particularly bad days could cause episodes of ill health for nearby residents. The emphasis on air quality monitoring appeared to be on the dust created by construction whilst our concerns are more about the pollution caused by traffic.*
- 3. Two points of particular concern are predicted adverse effects for King Georges Avenue where the Primary School is situated (there will be associated noise and traffic from LEEIE here) and houses in Westward Ho and Carr Avenue. (Westward Ho is not Westward House as written Tables 4.21 and table 4.26 in Volume 9 Rail Noise and Vibration Chapter 4 4.6 and 6.37 but the name of a street with approximately eighty households living there.) Houses at the ends of these roads will be affected by increased traffic on Abbey Road, train movements four times a day in the early years and the stopping train and traffic at the level crossing in Station Road. Houses in this position on Westward Ho already suffer from noise from the industrial estate on the other side of the railway line.*
- 4. It is important to remember that “receptors” might be a useful and exact way of referring to locations but the effects will be felt by the people living there. They will have a number of different adverse impacts to deal with – for example noise, vibration air pollution and increased traffic in the example of the people living at the end of Carr Avenue backing onto the railway and near the Abbey Road level crossing.*
- 5. Whilst taking the point that once built there will be little scope for changing the operational noise from the power station, it would be helpful to see if there are informed estimates of what this will be. Is there a functioning power station of this design where operational noise can be measured? If this can't be controlled once the power station is built then it is important to know now that it will be within acceptable limits, including when undergoing outages.*
- 6. The proposed monitoring to be shared between the contractors, the applicant and the local councils seems less independent and robust than we would like but we do not have the expertise to put forward alternatives.*
- 7. Picking up on our points about how issues arising during construction and complaints are dealt with, there should be flexibility within the mitigation so that unforeseen problems can be addressed. The applicant expects some flexibility in regulatory frameworks to deal with unexpected construction difficulties. Flexibility should also be afforded to local people.*