

Meeting Note



Annual Community Forum – Trinity Park, Ipswich (9 April 2024)

<p>Meeting Type: Annual Community Forum</p> <p>Sizewell C Attendees:</p> <p>Julia Pyke, Managing Director Damian Leydon, Site Delivery Director David Peacop, Site Operations Lead Richard Bull, DCO Lead Marjorie Barnes, Head of READ Rick Walter, Site Delivery Lead Tim Newton, Site Security Manager Spencer Bowdler, Site Operations Jez Porter, SPM Associated Development, Highways Chris Heaney, Transport Co-ordinator Richard Knight, Senior Community Relations Manager Zoe Botten, Community Relations Manager</p>	<p>Meeting held on: Tuesday 9th April 2024</p> <p>External Attendees:</p> <p>External Stakeholders: Simon Barlow, Project Manager, Environment Agency Dr Samaneh Nouraei, Sizewell Site Inspector, Office for Nuclear Regulation Sally Longmate, CEO, Suffolk Association Local Councils Simon Amstutz, National Landscape Manager, Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape Melanie Craig, Chief Executive, Suffolk Community Foundation</p> <p>Council Representatives Cllr Richard Smith, Suffolk County Council Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf, Suffolk County Council Cllr Katie Graham, East Suffolk Council Cllr Tom Daley, East Suffolk Council East Suffolk Town and Parish Councils</p>
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1. **Welcome and Introductions**
 - **Purpose of the Forums Explanation**
2. **Sizewell C Managing Director’s Update**
3. **Project Update**
 - **Communities**
 - **Delivering the DCO**
4. **Update**
 - **Feedback from other Forums**
 - **Project Look Ahead & Key Milestones**
5. **Suffolk Community Foundation**
6. **Q&A via Town and Parish Council Representative**
7. **Chair’s Concluding Remarks**
8. **Dates of Future Meetings**

Meeting Minutes – 09/04/2024

Item Ref	Actions / Comments	Who	By when
1	Welcome and Introductions – (Chair)		
1.01	Christine Abraham, ‘The Chair’, opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. The Chair welcomed representatives from the Parish and Town Councils, Suffolk County Council East Suffolk Council, representatives from the Office for Nuclear Regulation, Environment Agency, Suffolk Association of Local Councils, Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape and Suffolk Community Foundation.		



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	<p>During his introduction, Simon Barlow, Sizewell C Project Manager, Environment Agency said that the project will require a number of environmental permits to facilitate their construction phase. For which the EA are the environmental regulator responsible for making the decisions related to the construction phase. When applications are received and the EA start the determination phase, the EA will advertise those applications and will be encouraging the submission of consultation responses which will help influence the outcome of EA permit decisions. Simon said these applications will posted on the gov.uk website, with a link to a CitizenSpace place where you can physically go and leave your comments, and he understands that Sizewell C will also post the links to those consultations on their project tracker.</p> <p>As part of his introduction, Simon Amstutz, highlighted that the AONB has been re-branded with the new name of the Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape, for which he is the National Landscape Manager.</p> <p>Introductions were also received from: Dr Samaneh Nouraei, Sizewell Site Inspector, Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Melanie Craig, Chief Executive, Suffolk Community Foundation</p> <p>The Chair then welcomed the Sizewell C team presenting at the Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julia Pyke - Managing Director • Damian Leydon - Site Delivery Director • David Peacop - Site Operations Director • Richard Bull - DCO Lead • Marjorie Barnes - Head of Regional External Affairs & Development 		
1.02	<p>The Chair briefly outlined her professional background which started in the police force before moving into the third sector, spending more than a decade working for Community Action Suffolk, the last five years of which in the role of Chief Executive. She explained that she was attracted to the independent Chair role as having lived and worked in East Suffolk all her life; community engagement has been at the centre of her work throughout her career, and she is passionate about empowering local communities. The Chair set out the expectations she will hold herself to and committed to being as inclusive and fair as possible in her role.</p>		
1.03	<p>The Chair explained that the Development Consent Order (DCO) launched at the start of the year and has triggered the start of the forums, with the inaugural Main Development Site Forum, Northern Transport Forum and Southern Transport Forum all held during Quarter 1 of 2024.</p>		
1.04	<p>The purpose of the Annual Community Forum was then outlined:</p> <p>“An annual meeting for the East Suffolk community to hear updates on the work of the Main Development Site Forum, the Southern Transport Forum, and the Northern Transport Forum. We’ll discuss key issues and ways to minimise impacts and maximise benefits to those living and working nearby.”</p>		



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2	Sizewell C Managing Director's Update – (Julia Pyke)		
2.01	Julia Pyke (JP) gave an update on project progress over the past year. Planning consent was granted in July 2022 and Sizewell C have since moved forward with preparing the site for construction. JP said the project has moved from being majority owned by EDF to being majority owned by the UK Government, marking the importance of the project to the security of the UK's energy supply and to lowering and stabilising electricity bills.		
2.02	The equity raise process was launched in September and is making progress, with a final investment decision due to be made later this year. JP said work has already started on site and will continue, explaining that the date of the final investment decision does not impact this.		
2.03	The DCO was triggered in January 2024 which has enabled Sizewell C to commence formal construction and unlock the £250m package of funding for the local community. SZC have taken another key step in signing a deal with EDF Energy for the freehold of the land. JP explained that SZC is required to purchase the land before it can be eligible for a nuclear site licence.		
2.04	JP said SZC are accelerating recruitment of the workforce and preparing the ground of the construction site to begin bulk earthworks in the weeks ahead. They are working with local authorities to start to administer the £250m package of funding for local communities to ensure the project has a legacy benefit for generations to come.		
2.05	JP said it has been a huge collective endeavour to get to this point. She encouraged people to continue engaging with the team, outlining their commitment to keeping people updated on project progress, minimise the impact of construction and maximise opportunities for future generations.		
2.06	AFTERNOTE: UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM JULIA PIKE: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Frequency of Forums – we have listened to the suggestions they are more frequent than annual, and will plan to hold them twice a year, with the next Forum in the Autumn; 2. We will hold the next Forum closer to Leiston – and will discuss this with Leiston Town Council 3. We will update our community letters with a branded envelope 4. Communities team met with Stop Sizewell C representatives Alison Downes and Paul Collins to discuss how the Works Tracker could be improved 5. Follow up with schools in Halesworth and Bungay to offer education/ Sizewell Creative outreach 6. Include an update on skills at the next Forum 7. Meet Leiston Town Council to identify a venue in the Leiston area for the next Community Day which will be held later this year 8. Transport Working Group held 30 April with Marlesford and Little Glemham to progress scheme (Richard Cooper question - 6.22) 9. Action raised at the Transport Review Group 25 April to reach out to Tim Beach (Snape) (6.01) and other relevant Parishes to discuss monitoring of transport impacts on the local road network to address concerns 	AFTERNOTE	



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3	Project Update – (Marjorie Barnes and Richard Bull)		
3.01	Communities Marjorie Barnes (MB) gave an update on community engagement, outlining Sizewell C's community commitments in relation to building the new power station.		
3.02	MB said that following a thorough public consultation engaging thousands of East Suffolk residents between 2012 – 2020, planning consent was granted in July 2022. Works commenced on 15 th January 2024 and the governance process has been activated, with funds also unlocked for local communities.		
3.04	MB went on to highlight the following community engagement mechanisms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk-in sessions Monday-Friday with the communities' team in Leiston • 24-hour community helpline and email service • Quarterly Newsletters • Monthly Parish Council Bulletins • Online Works Tracker – updating local communities on the project's progress and construction activity in their area • Through monitoring this engagement and capturing the data, the SZC team can identify the key issues of concern and interest to neighbours • The inaugural Main Development Site Forum, Northern Transport Forum and Southern Transport Forum have all been held • Regular engagement with Leiston Town Council chair and clerk continues, presentations are delivered at their monthly meetings on project update, along with site visits • Sizewell village monthly community drop-in launched • Engagement at a range of local events including the Suffolk Show and the First Light Festival. 		
3.05	Delivering community benefits MB spoke about third sector partnerships and said £20m was released on 15 th January 2024 to support a broad range of areas from education and skills through to tourism.		
3.06	A short film was shown on 'what Sizewell C being a good neighbour means to the local community'.		
3.07	Delivering the Development Consent Order (DCO) Richard Bull (RB) began by discussing the project culture and values. He said SZC is committed to behaving in a safe and ethical manner and, through this, delivering excellent performance. He outlined the importance of safety in the workplace and ensuring members of the public are kept safe. RB said that SZC will be learning from its sister site, Hinkley Point C in Somerset, to ensure it is doing things as efficiently as possible.		
3.08	DCO Progress to Date; DCO Governance Groups RB gave an update on the DCO. He said that multiple milestones have been achieved in the last year, including the convening of many governance groups and forums. He said Local Authority engagement and governance of the ongoing compliance of the DCO is split across tactical and strategic levels and went on to explain the structure of the various strategic groups, review groups and working groups.		



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4	Update – (David Peacop and Damian Leydon)		
4.01	David Peacop (DP) gave an update on the high-level issues that had been raised at the community fora that had taken place to date.		
4.02	<p>Project Look Ahead and Key Milestones</p> <p>Damian Leydon (DL) gave an update on off-site infrastructure and project milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project’s first key milestone to be achieved is the completion of the fencing around the perimeter of the site, which is an essential requirement in securing a Nuclear Site Licence. The second milestone is the completion of the access to the Ancillary Construction Area (ACA) from King George’s Avenue, which means the fit-out of the new Welfare Hub is ready to begin. The third milestone, also now complete, is the resurfacing on the B1122 which is currently the main access road to site. Works were carried out overnight to minimise disruption to local residents and form part of the commitment under the Sizewell C Deed of Obligation. The resurfacing has improved the condition of the B1122 which will reduce noise and vibrations generated by traffic. The B1122 route is significant as it is the main road through Leiston to site and will be used by all construction traffic until the Sizewell Link Road has been constructed. 		
4.03	DL gave an overview of works including the Sizewell Link Road, Sizewell Branch Rail Line, East Suffolk Rail Line, Northern P&R (Darsham), Southern P&R (Wickham Market), Two Village Bypass (Farnham & Stratford St Andrew), and the Freight Management Facility.		
4.04	An update was given on the archaeological works, civils works, and the marsh harrier works, undertaken last year, which are now starting to mature and prosper.		
4.05	There was a pause for questions on the information presented so far.		
4.06	<p>Cllr Charles Macdowell said the resurfacing of the B1122 has caused a lot of inconvenience and diversions for residents in Middleton, giving an example of one resident being forced to take a 20-mile journey. He asked whether SZC will be setting up a formal review process to learn from the mistakes made during this process to minimise the impact on local communities in the future.</p> <p>DL apologised on behalf of his team and SZC and said there will be a formal investigation on this. He welcomed the opportunity to meet with Cllr Macdowell and some of the local community to discuss this in person.</p>		
4.07	Cllr Steve Brett said there was a similar experience in Theberton.		
4.08	<p>Cllr David Tower reported extensive potholes all along the A12, the junction of the B1122 and the A12 is particularly bad; and asked whether something will be done about this.</p> <p>Steve Merry (SM) said the customer service online tool (highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk) can be used to report potholes but confirmed that he would pass this on the operation team.</p>		
4.09	Cllr Tower asked whether the funding would come out of County Council funding or SZC. SM said the junction between the B1122 and A12 is due for replacement by a roundabout, that would be paid for by Sizewell C as part of infrastructure improvements, whilst the		



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	remainder would come out of the County Council funds as part of the Council's duty to maintain the highway.		
4.10	DT asked whether they would have to wait for the roundabout to be built before the pothole is repaired. SM said that if the pothole is defect according to the councils operational plan then it will be repair to the timescale in that plan; SM committed to discuss this issue with the operational team.	Steve Merry	
4.11	Cllr Chris Yeo, Levington & Stratton Hall Parish Council asked when the freight management facility will start and whether water management element is still planned. DP said SZC are reviewing capability and usage of this going forward and are working with some of their service providers about how they can use this more efficiently. He said SZC are reviewing the Freight Management Facility (FMF) location and considering whether there is a more suitable place to build it.		
5	Suffolk Community Foundation: Community Fund Update – (Melanie Craig, CEO, Suffolk Community Foundation)		
5.01	Melanie Craig (MC) gave a presentation on the work of the Suffolk Community Foundation and the Sizewell C Community Fund. About Suffolk Community Foundation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is a small but passionate team of 15 staff based in Wherstead. • Is a registered charity which was set up in 2005 and is one of 47 community foundations in the UK. • Awards grants to charities and community organisations so that they can support disadvantaged local people to improve their lives. • Help individuals, businesses, professional advisors and charitable trusts to fund projects which tackle the issues they care about the most. • Have given 9,500 grants totalling £40 million across the 3,000 local charities and 12,000 community groups working in Suffolk to date. • Works across the whole of Suffolk. • Award around £5 million in funding each year, which range from grants of £500 to £40,000 over several years. The average amount awarded is £3,500. • Supports both large and small organisations by helping them apply for grants. • Have extensive knowledge of the communities we work with and their specific needs. • Have been asked to manage the new Sizewell C Community Fund as a result of track record and experience. 		
5.02	The Sizewell C Community Fund: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is a pot of up to £23 million in funding which will be directed into the East Suffolk Council area over the next decade. • Around £2m will be available each year. • Grants will be awarded to schemes which will: minimise the impact of construction work; improve environmental, social and economic well-being; generate new education and employment opportunities. • Two staff have been appointed to manage the fund. 		
5.03	The awards panel will meet four times a year to decide on applications. It will be made up of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Suffolk Community Foundation trustee, who will chair the panel. 		



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two representatives from Suffolk County Council. Two from East Suffolk Council. Three from Sizewell C. Four independent members including two with a strong connection with the area; a researcher from the University of Suffolk and the CEO of Community Action Suffolk. Helen Taylor will chair the panel. She is an SCF trustee with extensive experience in community development as well as the charity, governance and health sectors. 		
5.04	<p>MC discussed the award criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel will meet for the first time later this month to discuss the awards criteria. There will be no upper limit on funding and awards can be made across multiple years. The full criteria will be published on Suffolk Community Foundation's website (www.suffolkcf.org.uk) once it has been agreed by the panel. Suffolk Community Foundation will then start inviting bids and hope to award the first grants in the summer. 		
5.05	<p>MC outlined the next steps for the Sizewell Community Fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise membership of the awards panel and the awards criteria. Open the fund for applications. This will be advertised on www.suffolkcf.org.uk – and Suffolk Community Foundation's social media channels. Keep stakeholders, donors, charities and community groups informed of progress and listen to their feedback. Update our website and the local media when awards are made to show the impact the funding is having. 		
6	Q&A via Town and Parish Council Representative – (Chair)		
6.01	<p>Pre-submitted Question – Traffic Monitoring Submitted by Councillor Tim Beach, Snape Parish Council 'Will SZC consider helping fund and plot ongoing traffic monitoring of main arterial routes and other potentially vulnerable sites and junctions, either through the transport review group and monies or separately?'</p> <p>Answer: RB said he understands this question has been the subject of discussion previously and reflects concern from Woodbridge, Wickham Market and other areas about what traffic may be diverted off the A12 onto the minor roads. He said it will be important to monitor and establish whether there is an impact and help to understand what to do about it. RB said his preference would be to pose the issue to the TRG to discuss what the strategy should be to monitor impacts on the routes of concern.</p>		
6.02	<p>Cllr Beech said this does not just affect Snape Parish Council but a whole range of other councils. He said they have been discussing this for years anyway and would be willing to help identify the routes and junctions. ACTION: The Chair said the team will take this away and come back to Cllr Beech.</p>	ACTION	
6.03	<p>Pre-submitted Question – Community Funding Submitted by Councillor Alison Bourne, Melton Parish Council 'How can Parish Council's access the community funding which will be available as part of the Sizewell C project, and how will it be allocated?'</p>		



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	<p>Answer: The Chair said this was covered by the presentation. Cllr Bourne agreed.</p>		
6.04	<p>Pre-submitted Question – Accommodation Submitted by Councillor Alison Bourne, Melton Parish Council 'Rental properties in the area are scarce, and local people are already being priced out of the market. Will all workers at Sizewell C be required to live in the EDF provided accommodation, and if not, how can local people be reassured that the rental market will not be dominated by workers from Sizewell?'</p> <p>Answer: RB said that not all workers will be required to live in the EDF provided accommodation. The 2,400 bed accommodation campus (including a shop) on the main development site will help ease the issue. He said some workers will live locally, and they estimate a third of the workforce will already come from the local area, with an aim to exceed this figure. He added that for non-home-based workers, the accommodation strategy submitted in the DCO sets out the aim to strike a balance to deliver economic benefits and minimise impacts on the local accommodation market.</p>		
6.05	<p>Pre-submitted Question – Forums Submitted by Councillor Marianne Fellowes, Aldeburgh Town Council 'Forums: ATC is grateful for the opportunity, and fully committed to engage with EDF regarding the proposed project. In what ways would EDF be willing to expand membership of the Forums to enable this? (Specifically ATC is not represented at either the North or South Transport forums and other peer Councils are also not represented on the Main Development Site forum). And could this Community Forum meet more frequently than annually please?'</p> <p>Answer: MB said Aldeburgh Town Council is represented on the Main Development Site Forum and the Transport Forums are for Parish and Town Councils which will be impacted by the mitigation works. She said SZC are aware the project will affect all communities in East Suffolk in some way, and years of consultation surveys carried out in those areas impacted by the project and associated developments resulted in the current format and are listed in the Deed of Obligation signed by the local authorities. MB said it is important that voices from areas are fully represented but said meetings are held in public and there is a balance to be struck in making sure people feel they can have their say. She said the office in Leiston is another one of the ways in which people can communicate with the project. She added, there will be a total of 13 forums that will meet this year and SZC are pleased with how far-reaching they are in terms of being able to engage with lots of communities.</p>		
6.06	<p>Cllr Fellowes said the SZC Community Forum terms of reference states that it is an annual meeting but said there was a lot of information presented and a huge willingness from people to engage with EDF. She said a precedent has been set with the Hinkley Point C Community Forum which meets three times a year in addition to their Main Site Forum and Transport Forum. She called for the SZC Community Forum to be of the same frequency as Hinkley Point C's Community Forum and for the membership to also mirror Hinkley; which includes NGOs and local residents.</p> <p>MB said it is difficult to compare the SZC forum set up with Hinkley. For example, SZC hold more Transport Forums as this is an issue of particular importance for SZC. She reiterated that all forums are accessible to the communities impacted in those areas and that engagement is going well. She said SZC were pleased with the uptake from local</p>		



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	<p>communities at the first set of fora and the number of people who have participated in the audience. She encouraged people to also meet with the SZC team outside of the formal structure of the forums.</p>		
6.07	<p>The Chair added that it is early days for all the forums so suggested keeping this on the agenda as it could be something to return to and consider once the current forums become embedded.</p>		
6.08	<p>Pre-submitted Question – Working Groups Submitted by Councillor Marianne Fellows, Aldeburgh Town Council 'Working Groups: How will the Economic, Social and Environmental working groups function in relations to the Forums, and how can Town/Parish Councils in general and ATC specifically engage, inform and support these to deliver the pledges in the Deed of Obligation including benefits (such as employment and training) and mitigations (such as impact on Tourism).'</p> <p>Answer: RB said local engagement and feedback is important and the key to the success of all working groups. He said SZC need to understand what impacts the community are facing and what can be done within the package of mitigation available to help with this. He said communication is important and the first line of this needs to be maintained by the local team and filtered by them. He explained that within the Deed of Obligation, SZC also fund positions within the Councils, with the role to act as the interface with working groups to handle issues within communities.</p> <p>RB introduced Chris Heaney, the Transport Coordinator for SZC, explaining that his role will be fundamental in helping to understand issues and then attending the Transport Review Group to find a resolution. He added that the Tourism Programme Manager and Tourism Marketing Manager sit within East Suffolk Council which is an interface between the regional tourism stakeholders and Tourism Working Group. The deed funds a regional skills coordination function sitting with the County Council. RB said these groups can interface directly but said the first point of call should be through the local Sizewell C team so they can understand what the issues are and can then reach out to the wider team to deal with issues on a case-by-case basis.</p>		
6.09	<p>Pre-submitted Question – Project Timetable Submitted by Councillor Nicky Corbett, Leiston Town Council 'We are yet to see an updated timetable for the project. We do understand that dates are fluid but we would like to see a flow chart which indicates the timeline for: For example: Park and Ride completion; Campus completion; Link road completion; Leiston Town Centre Traffic and Transport Plan completion; Contractor numbers; Park and Ride (North and South) completion; 2 village bypass completion; Yoxford roundabout completion; Green rail route completion. And likewise, when temporary associated development might start to be dismantled. This might seem a hard call for SZC but gives the community the opportunity to adjust to the project and understand the challenges ahead. If this document is already available, please send links to the towns and parishes.'</p> <p>Answer: The Chair said there is a timeline for some of the items raised. DL said details on Leiston Town traffic and small roadworks will be put forward in one of the upcoming Transport Forums. In terms of contracted numbers, he said they are currently at circa 600 people on site and projections are to move to 1,500 by the end of the year on the Main Development Site and some of the off-site areas with archaeologists and ecologists.</p>		



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6.10	<p>Pre-submitted Question – Community Days Submitted by Councillor Nicky Corbett, Leiston Town Council ‘We note you have held Community Days in Ipswich. These are for people to find out about the opportunities that Sizewell C will bring. It therefore seems a strange decision to not hold the first of these close to the site itself. When will you be holding a Community Day in, or close to, Leiston?’</p> <p>Answer: MB said the team will take this feedback on board and said there are a number of considerations to take into account on where to hold events, including the availability and size of the venue. She said on this occasion, SZC chose the Mix café in Ipswich because it is operated by Access Community Trust, one of Sizewell’s social partners. She gave assurance that SZC will use a range of venues and welcomed discussing suitable venues in Leiston.</p>		
6.11	<p>Pre-submitted Question – Workforce/Apprenticeship Scheme Submitted by Councillor Steve Brett, Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council ‘In your latest Project Update you refer to accelerating the recruitment of your workforce/apprenticeship scheme. Will this recruitment be from the local area or from a wider search? If the latter, where will these workers be living/staying?’</p> <p>Answer: MB said a core driver for the project is to recruit as many local people as possible and they are working to do this in different ways, including the Employment Skills Fund. As part of this, SZC work closely with all Suffolk colleges to ensure the courses are in place to deliver the skills needed for the project. She said that around a third of the workforce will come from the local area and SZC will be doing all they can to increase this number.</p> <p>MB said there is an accommodation strategy with plans for accommodation for the non-home-based workforce. She said there is a need to continue close working as the accommodation plans develop for the campus workforce on the main development site, to ensure the workforce can walk or cycle to work and this is important to minimising the number of vehicles on Suffolk roads.</p>		
6.12	<p>Cllr Brett said his concern is the campus will not be up and running for three to four years. He asked what will happen to people locally who will be squeezed out by people who come to work at Sizewell C. MB said SZC work closely with East Suffolk Council on planning the accommodation and also with organisations wanting to let properties. She said the accommodation management system is up and running. This is an online tool which allows those interested in registering their accommodation to do so and specify under which arrangements they are willing to let their properties. She gave assurance that SZC are alive to concerns about managing where non-home-based workers stay.</p>		
6.13	<p>Pre-submitted Question – Bulk Earthworks Submitted by Councillor Steve Brett, Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council ‘You also state in the recent Project Update that you will be commencing bulk earthworks in a few weeks’ time, can you please explain where on the site this will taking place and for what purpose?’</p> <p>Answer: DL said the bulk earthworks is a phased plan. There are plans to mobilise the earthworks partners towards the end of the month (April 2024), bringing them to site for familiarisation and to hone the plans, and to then start to form the grips and surface water management zones in May.</p>		



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6.14	Additional questions were taken from Council representatives.		
6.15	<p>Cllr T-J Haworth-Culf raised several points on behalf of her constituents. She first reported that a resident from Aldeburgh does not believe there has been a satisfactory response to the suitability of the site and its geological make up to sustain Sizewell C, asking whether other sites have been considered.</p> <p>Cllr Haworth-Culf raised concerns that a construction of this scale is an environmental disaster and will destroy the area of the AONB and bird life sanctuary and cause major disruption to communities for many years to come. She added concerns that plans to mitigate are inadequate and called upon Sizewell C to share plans in full, with all details on environmental impacts, saying people currently only see marketing messages and not the facts.</p> <p>JP said there are around 8 sites in the UK designated as suitable for nuclear but not many of them are of a size suitable for gigawatt nuclear. Some SMRs are in early generic design assessment process so they are quite a long way away. Given there is an energy crisis in terms of security of supply and price and a climate crisis, the UK Government has a policy of building nuclear. She said consultation on the process to build SZC has been taking place for more than ten years. She outlined huge amount of technical work and rigorous consenting process run by the regulatory teams at the ONR, Environment Agency and other regulators. She said the original plan for SZC was in the 1990s which is why there is a grid line large enough for SZC.</p>		
6.16	<p>Cllr Haworth-Culf also asked about funding and sought assurance that there is no foreign investment.</p> <p>JP reiterated that SZC used to be majority owned by EDF but that it is now majority owned by the UK Government. She said a lot of the infrastructure in Suffolk is foreign owned. She said SZC may have some foreign investment, but it will also have a very large stake from the UK Government and that this is to be welcomed.</p>		
6.17	<p>Cllr Haworth-Culf also asked for communications to be improved, saying it often looks like junk mail.</p> <p>JP said the team would look at putting clearer SZC branding on written communications.</p>		
6.18	<p>Thérèse Coffey MP said she was concerned by David Peacop’s report that four drivers have already been kicked out and a number of suppliers are not obeying the regulations set out by SZC. She said she hopes local people’s concerns are listened to and that APR technology is accelerated.</p>		
6.19	<p>Ms Coffey said the deployment of skills locally must be a priority and asked to hear more about what SZC are doing in this regard.</p> <p>JP said the first thing is recognising that aspiration starts in schools, and SZC are therefore working with Alde Valley Academy who are helping them connect with local children. She said that there is often a focus on STEM, but they are looking at other means of engagement, such as art, and have made hyperlocal funding available in Leiston to engage with children to make them aware of the power station and the opportunities it will give. In terms of skills, JP said SZC are in the early stages of actively looking at a construction skills centre in Leiston. She said that SZC will be doing all they can to engage with young people and encouraged people to get in touch with the project if they think they can be doing more in this space, offering assurance that SZC want the biggest local workforce they can get.</p>		



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6.20	<p>Cllr Tom Daly focused his question on energy bills, asking about the Regulated Asset Base (RAB) model of funding. He said that when SZC starts producing energy, there will be many multiples for the cost of renewable energy and asked how this will help with people’s energy bills.</p> <p>JP said energy bills are comprised of the cost of making electricity, getting the electricity, and then the cost of using electricity. She said the more the country moves to a system dominated by renewable energy, the higher this part of the bill becomes as it is reliant on something that is not weather dependent. She explained that the reason nuclear will bring bills down is because it is cheaper to build SZC with its existing grid. She said the government’s modelling team agrees with this and the savings range from £1-1.5bn a year to consumers and added that it is cheaper than massively overbuilding renewables and massively overbuilding the grid.</p>		
6.21	<p>It was noted that there are other communities, not just Leiston, which should be considered in relation to transport links, hospitals, and the schools surrounding Leiston. The Chair agreed.</p>		
6.22	<p>Cllr Richard Cooper asked for confirmation on when the mitigation works on the A12 are expected to start. He raised concerns about volume and the speed of the traffic and called for a reduction in the speed limit to 30mph as provided for in the Deed of Obligation. RB said the working group need to meet, agree the detailed design and finalise this before going through the procurement process. He said this scheme, along with all Deed of Obligation schemes, are there for safety reasons to mitigate impacts in the early years of the project and therefore SZC are keen to deliver these as soon as they can. He said SZC aim to commence all schemes early next year, but this is subject to the completion of the designs.</p>		
6.23	<p>Cllr Traci Weaver thanked the team for providing the timeline which was requested at the Northern Transport Forum. She asked what is being done to manage construction worker traffic and said that drivers need to be cognisant of residents, their safety, and needs.</p> <p>RB said managing transport is important to the project and a key focus is to ensure they stay on the designated routes, the B1122 and A12, and as soon as possible the Sizewell Link Road. This is supported by the strategy to deliver the Park and Ride sites to ensure workers arrive on buses and minimise vehicle numbers accordingly. In terms of managing this, he explained that anything over 3.5 tonnes must stay on the designated routes and will be tracked through the delivery management system which is controlled and reported through the TRG.</p>		
6.24	<p>Cllr Weaver said she was specifically asking about workers.</p> <p>RB said that over and above this, it is important to ensure that workers understand what the requirements and expectations are, what routes they need to use to travel and which Park and Ride sites they need to go to. As the project grows, he said SZC must ensure this happens through the worker induction process and ongoing communication with the workforce, as well as reacting to issues reported to the team by the community.</p>		
6.25	<p>Cllr Barry Rowing raised concerns over the Orwell Bridge closure and what will happen to the transporter vehicles, which they assume will be travelling along and up the A12, and asked whether there is a contingency plan for this.</p>		



Item Ref	Actions / Comments	Who	By when
	<p>RB said HGVs will not be permitted to go on the A1120 even in the event of an incident. Looking at the example of Orwell Bridge, he said any vehicle to the west of Orwell will be held at appropriate points that are designated in the Traffic Incident Management Plan. He said they will be very reactive to a closure and all suppliers would be contacted to ensure they hold vehicles or tun them around. He said that once the Southern Park and Ride is open, there will be an incident management facility there to hold vehicles. He added that there are a number of points on the road network where vehicles can be held, and they will not be sent on diversion routes on local roads.</p>		
7	<p>Chair's Concluding Remarks – (Chair)</p>		
7.01	<p>The Chair thanked everyone for attending and encouraged people to speak to the communities team at Leiston and send in any questions they may have.</p> <p>The contact details are:</p> <p>FREEPHONE 0800 197 6102 info@sizewellc.com</p> <p>Sizewell C Information Office, 48-50 High Street, Leiston IP16 4EW. Open for visits without appointment 9:30am – 5pm (weekdays only), closed lunchtimes 12:30pm – 1:30pm.</p>		
8	<p>Dates of Future Meetings – (Chair)</p>		
8.01	<p>The dates of future Forum meetings were provided.</p> <p>Main Development Site Forum Tuesday 16th April 2024 Tuesday 16th July 2024 Tuesday 15th October 2024</p> <p>Northern Transport Forum Wednesday 8th May 2024 Wednesday 7th August 2024 Wednesday 6th November 2024</p> <p>Southern Transport Forum Wednesday 15th May 2024 Wednesday 14th August 2024 Wednesday 13th November 2024</p>		
8.02	<p>The Chair said that the meeting notes, once agreed, will be posted up on the East Suffolk website along with the notes for the other community forums.</p> <p>The meeting closed.</p>		