

Meeting Note



Southern Transport Forum

Meeting Type: Southern Transport Forum

Meeting held on: Wednesday 4 June 2025

Sizewell C Attendees:

Brian Stewart, Chair
David Peacop, Site Operations Director
David Seal, Offsite Delivery Manager
Richard Bull, Head of Planning
Marjorie Barnes, Head of READ
Jez Porter, Senior Project Manager, Highways
Stephen Keighley, Project Manager AD5
Richard Knight, Senior Community Relations Manager
Rebecca Quigg, Transport Co-ordinator
Steve Merry, SCC Highways
David Taylor, Network Rail
Katherine Scott, Network Rail

External Attendees:

Cllr David Chenery, Wickham Market PC
Cllr Ian Norman, Farnham with Stratford St Andrews PC
Cllr Richard Cooper, Marlesford PC
Cllr Robin Sanders, Woodbridge TC
Cllr Geraldine Barker, Saxmundham TC
Cllr Russ Rainger, Snape PC
Dr Charlotte Fox, Benhall & Sternfield PC
Cllr Graeme Watts, Brightwell, Foxhall & Purdis Farm Group PC
Cllr John Bann, Melton PC
Cllr Linda Montgomery, Hacheston PC
Carolyn Barnes, Transport Lead – Energy Projects, East Suffolk Council

Apologies and Substitutions:

Cllr David Findley, Ufford PC sub Cllr Nigel Smith
Cllr Alexander Nicoll, Suffolk County Council

1. Welcome and Introduction of the Chair and Panel
2. Meeting notes and matters arising from Southern Transport Forum (12 March 2025)
3. Exceptional Reporting
4. Corporate and Community Relations
5. Road and Rail Updates
6. Traffic Movements and Transport Review Group Update
7. Q&A via Town and Parish Council Representative
8. Dates of Future Meetings
9. Close

DRAFT Meeting Minutes – 04/06/2025

Minute Ref	Actions/Comments	Who	By when
1 1.01	Welcome and Introduction of the Chair and Panel – (Chair) Brian Stewart opened the meeting at 18.30 and provided the safety message.		
2	Meeting Notes and Actions from Previous Southern Transport Forum (12 March 2025)		
2.01	Cllr Norman proposed that the minutes be accepted. Cllr Sanders seconded the motion. The motion was approved, and the minutes would be published. The actions were:		

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	- Correspondence with Suffolk Constabulary – The letters had been published on both the SZC and ESC websites. - Meeting with Network Rail and communities – This was ongoing and would be arranged as soon as appropriate to do so. - Additional parishes to attend the meeting with Network Rail – This was ongoing. - Plans to be shared with Marlesford Parish Council – This was completed. - Additional monitoring stations and traffic monitoring counters at the Wilford bridge – This was ongoing. Cllr Bann expressed interest in these counters counting more frequently. Rebecca Quigg would cover this in her presentation.		
3	Exceptional Reporting (Richard Knight)		
3.01	Richard Knight reported that the first community meeting of 2025 had taken place at Darsham High Lodge on 27 March with Jenny Riddell-Carpenter, MP for Suffolk Coastal, present. There had been updates on the final investment decision process, as well as on the community fund money, and the project build. The draft meeting note had been published on the SZC and ESC websites.		
3.02	Questions had included: - Communication to the public. - Cooperation with other infrastructure projects. - Accommodation. - Vegetation clearance.		
4	Corporate and Community Relations – (Marjorie Barnes)		
4.01	Marjorie Barnes reported that the project continued in a strong position with support from government and interest from the investment community. Over 1,200 people were now working onsite, which was anticipated to rise over the year to reach 2,000. Contracts had been awarded for mitigating infrastructure, often to local companies.		
4.02	Communication was important, and different channels were being explored based on feedback. A monthly email newsletter on construction activity was available to sign-up for.		
4.03	Some of the archaeological finds had been shared at the Suffolk County Show. The next local event would be held on 14 June at Wickham Market. A number of other local events would be attended and supported by the project team.		
4.04	A full list of community projects was available on the Suffolk Community Foundation website. Councillors were encouraged to share information with parishioners on accessing the community grants available. The current round of funding closed on 20 July.		
5	Road and Rail Update		
	Overview		
5.01	David Peacop shared a fly-through video of the main sites, highlighting the infrastructure and archaeology work.		
5.02	David Seal reported that semi-permanent signage would be erected at the A140 and A12 for the duration of the project.		

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	Southern Park and Ride		
5.03	A lot of preparatory work was taking place. Work would be done in two phases, with phase one in December due to provide some parking and bus turning. Footpath and cycle path improvements were being undertaken. A series of attenuation ponds on the site would take any runoff from the car park.		
	Two Village Bypass		
5.04	This would also be going ongoing in the summer. A contractor had been brought onboard, and early commencement works had been taking place. Technical approval for the scheme had been received from SCC.		
5.05	A series of local schemes were being undertaken to make improvements to roads outside of the designated roads. This included the AIL layby, which ran parallel with the southern park and ride. Some of these works were a collaboration with Scottish Power, which had overlapping schemes.		
	Rail Line Updates		
5.06	Stephen Keighley reported that enabling works had been taking place. Most devegetation work had been completed, and some areas were to be revisited due to nesting birds.		
5.07	A hub had been established at an old airstrip half a mile from the Buckleswood site. 28 units were being fitted out there. Significant work was also taking place at the Buckleswood site, which was to be retained as a logistics hub.		
5.08	All track upgrades on the East Suffolk line had been completed, with continuous welded rail installed to minimise noise. Contracts were being finalised with Balfour Beatty Rail and Network Rail around signalling works to come. The upgrade of Leiston line would start in August, with only one level crossing closed at a time		
5.09	David Taylor reported that, on Melton level crossing, there had not been much change from the previous update. Once a design and programme were agreed, it would be shared with the relevant parties with proper notice. With Darsham level crossing, an outline design had previously been shared. It was recognised that there would be disruption, but minimisation was being looked at. Melton and Darsham would not be closed at the same time.		
	Q&A		
5.10	Cllr Chenery asked about an indicative date for the Wickham Market traffic calming scheme. David Seal explained that there were around 18 schemes, which had been split across 2025 and 2026. Wickham Market had moved to early 2026.		
5.11	Cllr Cooper said he understood that an 11kva cable was being installed from Marlesford to Southern Park and Ride in Q4 2025. He queried any details on this. Jez Porter explained that lane working would have to be introduced, and this was being worked on. It was anticipated that these works would be completed in November.		
5.12	Cllr Bann asked what discussions had taken place with the bus operators about improved services. David Seal said there had not been, but he would speak to the operators. Cllr Sanders explained there was currently a bid in at SCC to increase bus services due to an influx of workers at the barracks.		
	ACTION: David Seal to make contact with the bus operators regarding increased services.	DS	3 September

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5.13	Cllr Rainger asked whether all of the rail work would be completed by Q1 2026. Stephen Keighley explained that the work would continue into Q2 2026, but some limited train deliveries would begin in Q1.		
6	Traffic Movements and Transport Review Group Update		
6.01	Rebecca Quigg reported on the HGV movements up to March, which had been well below the 600 cap. A higher proportion of HGVs had come from the north than in Q4 2024. This had been due to delivery of aggregates and was likely to shift back. LGV movements did not have a formal cap, but the forecast had been 250, which the reality had been below.		
6.02	The results of the bi-annual traffic monitoring survey would come to the next meeting. As of the last TRG meeting on 1 May, there were 40 traffic monitoring sites with a further site at Parham. Permanent monitoring had been discussed on 1 May.		
	Q&A		
6.03	Cllr Rainger noted that the data on the ESC website had fell behind. Rebecca Quigg explained that the latest TRG minute were in review and would be uploaded as soon as ready. Rebecca Quigg was speaking with the data team about reducing the lag.	RQ	
7	Q&A – via Town and Parish Council Representative		
7.01	Q1 The proposed campsite at the LEEIE (400 caravans or 600 personnel capacity) was cancelled. We acknowledge that additional accommodation has been created at Pakefield, but where are those who prefer their own caravan space going to be located? What impact will this have on personnel/vehicle movements inside the P&R catchment? Responses to Cllr Rainger Snape Parish Council: Richard Bull explained that the cancellation of the LEEIE had been approved by the accommodation working group. The commitment had been amended to 399 chalets at Pakefield and the delivery of 134 additional touring pitches for caravans. There should be minimal impact on personal vehicle movements within the park and ride catchment area.		
7.02	Q1. We now have an indicative start period for construction of A12 mitigation works in Marlesford of Q2 2026 – can you give a similar indication on Southern Park and Ride? Q2. Further traffic monitoring has been carried out in April. Can you please give an update on that work including whether or not additional permanent monitors were brought into commission in time to be used in that data set and if not, when will they come into use? Responses to Cllr Cooper Marlesford Parish Council: Rebecca Quigg explained that traffic monitoring data from April would be reported to the TRG in July. The minutes of the TRG would be published within five weeks.		
7.03	Q1. There seems to be no recent news about the timetable for the construction of the A12 MRN scheme to upgrade the route for Sizewell C traffic between the A14 at Seven Hills and the A1152 at Wood Lane. Can an update be provided at the meeting on the expected date for commencement of these works and is there a more detailed timetable and/or time period of the works for each section of this scheme?	SM	3 September

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	Responses to Cllr Sanders Woodbridge Town Council: Steve Merry explained that a planning application for the A12 MRN scheme would be submitted in July 2025 with a likely start somewhere in 2026 and finishing in mid-June 2028. The website would be updated. ACTION: Steve Merry to update the SZC website regarding the timeline for the A12 MRN scheme.		
7.04	Responses to Cllr Norman: Jez Porter explained that the main contractor had been onboarded for the A12 roundabout works, and work was being undertaken on the optimal way to carry them out.		
8	Dates of Future Meetings		
8.01	Brian Stewart stated that the next meeting would start at 18.30 on Wednesday 3 September at Stratford St Andrew Riverside Centre.		
9	Close		
9.01	The meeting closed at 19.55.		