

DRAFT Meeting Note



Community Forum

Meeting Type: Community Forum

Meeting held on: Thursday 23 October 2025

Chair:

Christine Abraham

Sizewell C Attendees:

Panel:

Damian Leydon – Site Delivery Director
Richard Bull – Head of Planning
Marjorie Barnes – Head of READ

Guest Speakers:

Ceri Bryant – Occupational Health & Wellbeing Manager
Clive Mobbs – Chaplain

Advisers:

David Peacop – Site Operations Delivery
David Seal – Offsite Delivery Manager
Tim Newton – Site Security Manager
Jez Porter – SPM Highways
Spencer Bowdler – Site Operations – Site Lead
Zoe Botten – Community Relations Manager
Rebecca Quigg – Transport Co-ordinator
Darren Benford Brown – Community Safety

External Invitees:

County and District Councillors:
Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf – Suffolk Country Council
Cllr Katie Graham – East Suffolk Council
Cllr Sarah Whitelock – East Suffolk Council
[Cllr Nicky Corbett – Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council?]

External Stakeholders:

Jenny Riddell-Carpenter – MP for Suffolk Coastal
Jess Asato – MP for Lowestoft
Jack Abbott – MP for Ipswich Central

Simon Barlow – Project Manager, Environment Agency
Sally Longmate – CEO, Suffolk Association of Local Councils
Hannah Bloom – Chief Executive, Suffolk Community Foundation
Caroline Botwood – DESNZ Director
Simon Amsutz – Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape

Apologies and/ or Substitutions:

Angela Ramsay – Office for Nuclear Regulation
Cllr Tom Daly – East Suffolk Council

1. Welcome and Introduction of the Chair and Panel
2. Community Relations
3. Project Look Ahead for 2025/2026 & Key Milestones
4. Workforce, Wellbeing and Pastoral Care
5. Q&A – Via Town and Parish Council Representative
6. Dates of Future Meetings

DRAFT Meeting Note – 08/10/2025

Minute Ref	Actions/Comments	Who	By when
1	Welcome and Introduction of the Chair and Panel		
1.01	The Chair opened the meeting and introduced herself and the panel. The Chair explained that this was a meeting in public and not a public meeting, and that questions would only be taken from elected representatives.		
1.02	Apologies were noted from Angela Ramsay from the ONR and Tom Daly from East Suffolk Council.		

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1.03	There had been no actions from the March 2025 meeting, but some were ongoing from the October 2024 meeting.		
1.04	5.09 – There had been a request for a meeting to be held with Tom Daly and Wild East. This had been completed.		
1.05	5.11 – There had been a request for Suffolk Community Foundation to meet with Southwold Town Council about availability of grants. This had been completed.		
1.06	7.15 – On replacement of Campsea Ashe signage for construction traffic, the process had started and was ongoing.		
1.07	The notes of the March 2025 meeting were approved.		
2	Community Relations		
2.01	Marjorie Barnes presented the report.		
2.02	Since the last meeting, the final investment decision had been secured in July. The UK Government was now the majority investor in the project, reinforcing national commitment and bringing certainty and clarity.		
2.03	Marjorie Barnes apologised for extended journey times being experienced as work was carried out. SZC teams were working hard to deliver infrastructure to reduce impacts, but this took time to build. Quite soon the park and ride facilities would be in use, reducing cars on the road.		
2.04	Main construction would ramp up in 2026, and significant work would be noticeable. Engagement would continue to keep the community updated, and new methods of doing so were being explored.		
2.05	SZC was working closely with the Kingfisher Academy Trust, which looked after a lot of the schools in the area, through the Leiston Education Partnership. This focused on enriching young people through STEM, art and music. This model was being looked at for replication across the district. A new visitors centre was to be opened in collaboration with SZB, which would provide opportunities for local schools and groups to visit.		
2.06	The Suffolk Community Foundation was making around £2 million available each year to projects promoting economic, social or environmental wellbeing in the communities closest to SZC. To date, around £3 million had been given out in grants.		
3	Project Look Ahead for 2025/2026 & Key Milestones		
3.01	Damian Leydon presented the report.		
3.02	As a project 238 football fields' worth of new nature reserve had been formed; over 100 apprentices had joined the project; and 162 contacts had been signed including a lot with local suppliers. The park and rides were ahead of the schedule, with the Northern Park to open at the beginning of November. The Southern Park and ride would be open at Christmas. Work on the Sizewell Link Road had commenced, as had the two-village bypass.		

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	County-wide signage work would be completed by the end of the month and traffic cones and works on the A11 layby would be removed by the end of November.		
3.03	Damian Leydon presented the drone video flyby.		
	Questions		
3.04	Jenny Riddell-Carpenter noted that there had been talk about Scottish Power Renewables (SPR) and SZC coordinating and asked how this would be communicated and resident concerns could be put forward. Marjorie Barnes stated that SZC recognised that communication needed to improve. There was some planned space in local newspapers, and the high street office was open and could act as a hub. Damian Leydon stated that, since the last Community Forum, different forms of communication had been used. The collaboration with SPR was something that Damian Leydon had never seen before.		
3.05	Steve Thorpe from Middleton-cum-Fordley Parish Council was interested that Damian Leydon had said the SLR could be tweaked around copses in the wooded area and hoped that the same could be done around the Middleton oaks under threat from the A1125. Damian Leydon said 'tweak' had not been the best use of language. With the Middleton oaks, the DCO had permission to remove seven. A large amount of work had taken place with the council to prevent the need to remove two. With regard to the remaining two, works had currently stopped, and conversations were taking place with the council as to whether the junction or road could move. Damian Leydon said he was happy to meet with Steve Thorpe.		
3.06	John Cross from Great Glemham Parish Council noted the right turn on the A12 to head south and a concern about 'bunching up' of traffic caused by reduced speed limits making the right turn onto the A12 from side roads more difficult. He queried what action was being taken. Richard Bull said this SZC was delivering a road safety scheme at Marlesford and Little Glemham which would hopefully assist this issue. Any concerns that remain could be taken to the Transport Review Group. The Chair asked the SZC to make contact with John Cross. ACTION: Damian Leydon to speak with John Cross about the right turn onto the A12.	Damian Leydon	
4	Workforce, Wellbeing and Pastoral Care		
4.01	Ceri Bryant stated that her role at SZC was to establish an onsite health service for everybody who worked onsite that was flexible and adaptable to individual needs. The purpose of this was to ensure minimal impact on local services. At the moment, there was an onsite medical centre that was open for the site working hours. There was a visiting GP as well as a 24/7 on-call GP service and a minor injuries service. There was also an emergency response service onsite. There was zero tolerance for drug and alcohol misuse, and random testing took place.		
4.02	Wellbeing was very important, with mental health first aiders being trained and active onsite to be able to 'signpost' people. There was also an employee assistance programme offering emotional, physical and financial wellbeing where needed.		
4.03	Clive Mobbs introduced himself as the chaplain at SZC, offering pastoral and spiritual support to the workforce at SZC. Some of the problems faced by the workforce were exacerbated by working away from home. Clive Mobbs was on site most mornings to be available when needed. His support was not limited to just Christians, and he had an		

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	approach of being inclusive, non-judgmental and confidential. He was not employed by SZC but by the diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, so did not have to report into managers at the project.		
4.04	Clive Mobbs had reached out to the local faith communities and hoped in the next few months to have volunteer associate chaplains coming onboard to support him.		
5	Q&A – via Town and Parish Council Representative		
5.01	A question had been submitted asking whether SZC could outline the process of changes to the construction works and the opportunity to influence proposed changes. Richard Bull explained that the DCO contained requirements which needed to be discharged by East Suffolk Council (ESC) and Suffolk County Council (SCC) during construction. Approval could only be given where it had been demonstrated to the council's satisfaction that it would not give rise to new or different significant environmental effects, and set stakeholders needed to be engaged. A significant change would require an application to the Secretary of State via the Planning Inspectorate. Marjorie Barnes and her team would engage with the community directly.		
5.02	A question had been raised about whether the £12 million natural environment improvement fund would mitigate the impacts of the SZC build. Richard Bull said it would.		
5.03	A question had been submitted by Nicky Corbett from Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council about when the first report from the University of Suffolk socioeconomic study would be made public. Marjorie Barnes said a study had been commissioned which was hoped to be an annual study on aspirations and concerns about the project. The report would be issued in the current year.		
5.04	A question had been submitted from Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council regarding why the East of England Ambulance Service's GPS was unaware of the road closures and diversions and how it would be rectified. Richard Bull said the Causeway One Network was used for road closures and diversions, which had a direct link to satnavs, and it would be investigated whether this included ambulances. It was noted that unclear signage did not help. Damian Leydon noted that there was a multidisciplinary team starting work on signage.		
5.05	A question had been submitted from Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council regarding longer waiting times for GP appointments. Ceri Bryant noted that onsite healthcare services were provided for SZC workers.		
5.06	A question had been submitted from Melton Parish Council regarding SZC's approach to compensating local businesses for loss of income as a result of the development. Richard Bull noted that the economic impact of SZC would be overwhelmingly positive, with benefit to local business maximised through the local supply chain. Business would need to take their own advice on statutory compensation.		
5.07	A question had been submitted by Steve Thorpe regarding a more exact project finish date. Richard Bull noted the public position was it would finish mid-2030s.		
5.08	A question had been submitted by Steve Thorpe regarding whether the parish councils could be briefed on planting plans to screen the SLR. Richard Bull noted the DCO included a landscape management plan which set out how landscaping would be implemented. He was happy to engage around this.		

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5.09	A question had been submitted from Aldeburgh Town Council requesting an update on whether the rail branch line may remain after construction. Richard Bull said the green rail route would be removed, but the branch line would remain.		
5.10	Charlotte Fox from Benhall & Sternfield Parish Council asked about the National Grid proposals to move 300 tonne loads across the Benhall railway bridge, and the potential impact on the railway. Damian Leydon said that conversations were taking place about this with National Grid at present.		
5.11	John Walford from Yoxford Parish Council said the local tourism industry was being impacted by the development and suggested that SZC set up a committee to deal with the loss of small business and tourism. Richard Bull said there was a tourism working group which looked at the relevant data and acted accordingly.		
5.12	John Walford queried what SZC could do to help the local community in terms of sexual health. Ceri Bryant explained that she was working with SCC and their sexual health provider to ensure that the SZC workforce were covered.		
5.13	Alison Bourne from Melton Parish Council noted that as of the next day the level crossings would be closed for five days. Residents were very concerned about access by the emergency services. Alison Bourne asked what SZC was doing to mitigate this. Damian Leydon said there had been collaboration with other infrastructure projects to reduce impact.		
5.14	Jeremy Williams from Farnham Parish Council noted that Marjorie Barnes had mentioned 150 buses which might be available in the downtime when not used by construction staff. Marjorie Barnes explained that it was being explored with ESC and SCC.		
5.15	Maureen Jones from Aldringham-cum-Thorpe Parish Council noted talk that people from Thorpeness, Aldringham and Leiston would have to go to the park and ride and catch a bus back to Sizewell. Richard Bull reassured Maureen Jones that a common-sense approach would be taken around minimising road miles.		
5.16	Katie Graham from ESC welcomed the pause in the works around Middleton oaks. Such a pause had been requested previously by ESC, and the response had been that it was not possible; however, the pause had been announced two days later. Katie Graham queried what had changed. Richard Bull said the local community had been engaged with. The relationship with ESC was good. He was not sure what had happened, but the right outcome had been reached.		
5.17	Geraldine Barker from Saxmundham Town Council expressed concerns about HMOs and pressures on parking. Marjorie Barnes said anything antisocial resulting from the SZC team which was reported was addressed. Details of the vehicles were required. Geraldine Barker requested that SZC work with the council to secure resident parking. The Chair said this would be followed up on. ACTION: Follow up on parking pressures and solutions with appropriate partners.		
5.18	Nicky Corbett noted that there was prescription overload at the pharmacy in Leiston. Ceri Bryant said she had spoken to the pharmacist about this, who had said there was not an issue.		



Minute Ref	Actions/Comments	Who	By when
5.19	The Chair reminded attendees that they could contact the community team with any questions.		
6	Dates of Future Meetings		
6.01	The next Community Forum would be on 19 March 2026.		