

Meeting Note



Northern Transport Forum

Meeting Type: Northern Transport Forum	Meeting held on: Wednesday 4 February 2026
Sizewell C Attendees: Brian Stewart, Chair Richard Bull, Head of Planning Richard Knight, Senior Community Relations Manager David Peacop, Site Operations Director David Seal, Offsite Delivery Manager Marjorie Barnes, Head of READ Zoe Botten, Community Relations Manager Steve Merry, SCC Highways Rebecca Quigg, Transport Co-ordinator Stephen Keighley, Rail Project Manager Darren Benford-Brown, Community Safety Officer Paul Kerry, Area Delivery Manager Steve Deville, Communications Lead – Network Rail	External Attendees: Cllr Paul Ashton, East Suffolk Council Cllr Josie Bassinette, Walberswick PC Cllr Jude Blois, Blythburgh PC Cllr Paul Collins, Theberton and Eastbridge PC Cllr Nicky Corbett, Leiston cum Sizewell PC Cllr Edwina Galloway, Kelsale cum Carlton PC Cllr Debbie Hughes, Bramfield and Thorington PC Cllr Alexander Nicoll, Suffolk County Council Cllr Barry Rowing, Peasenhall PC Cllr David Sims, Sibton PC Cllr Steve Thorpe, Middleton cum Fordley PC Cllr Andrew Turner, Westleton PC Cllr John Walford, Yoxford PC Cllr Stuart Walmsley, Darsham PC
External Stakeholders: Suffolk Constabulary	Apologies and Substitutions: Cllr Andrew Candler; David Sims substituting Cllr Charles Macdowell; Steve Steve Thorpe substituting Cllr Matthew Saunders; Jude Blois substituting

1. Welcome and Introduction of the Chair and Panel
2. Meeting Note and Matters Arising from Previous Meeting (5 November 2025)
3. Road and Rail Updates
4. Rail Updates
5. Traffic and Transport
6. Q&A via Town and Parish Council Representatives
7. Date of Next Meeting
8. Close

DRAFT Meeting Notes – 04/02/2026

Minute Ref	Actions/Comments	Who	By when
1	Welcome and Introduction of the Chair and Panel		
1.01	Brian Stewart welcomed the attendees. Apologies were noted from Andrew Candler, Charles Macdowell and Matthew Saunders. John Walford would join the meeting late.		
2	Meeting Note and Matters Arising from Previous Meeting (5 November 2025)		



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Minute Ref	Actions/Comments	Who	By when
2.01	Alexander Nicoll highlighted that his surname had been spelt incorrectly in paragraphs 4.22 and 5.05.		
2.02	The minutes of 5 November 2025 were approved.		
2.03	The matters arising were as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 2.02 and 2.04 – Richard Knight stated that there had been ongoing discussions with SCC regarding the footpath at Darsham, and SZC had obtained excessive quotes for the works. It would now review other opportunities. The meeting would also address the Northern Park and Ride (NPR) operation and Marsh Lane. o 2.02 and 7.08 – Steve Merry explained he had attempted to identify if colleagues had had any experience of using a temporary variable speed limit, but he had not received any feedback. SCC had worked intensively with SZC to minimise speed limits where possible. o SZC to engage with the Suffolk safety camera partnership regarding speeding in Blythburgh – Darren Benford-Brown stated that the abnormal indivisible loads (AILs) team was enforcing speed limits in local areas, including Blythburgh. Once he had received feedback, he would have a better idea of what to approach the safety camera partnership with. 		
2.04	Andrew Turner clarified that Westleton PC had requested LED speed limit signs, which presumably could be managed remotely. Steve Merry stated that he had received no information to suggest that such signs were available. Should Andrew Turner find evidence of their availability, he should inform him.		
3	Road and Rail Updates		
3.01	David Peacop presented the road update.		
3.02	The first part of the southern park and ride car park would open at the end of February. The first section of the NPR had opened with 50 spaces. The ancillary construction area (ACA) rail route was developing.		
3.03	David Peacop highlighted the temporary construction area (TCA) and the south plaza. The piling was being inserted. The main site earthworks were predominately completed, and SZC was preparing for the bulk dig in the main construction area (MCA). The main link road was progressing. The focus would soon shift to external works.		
3.04	David Seal reported that road safety 'early years' improvement works were currently taking place in Yoxford. B1125 and B1387 works would commence in Q2. Angel Lane and the top portion of the B1125 would not be closed until the B1387 works were complete. There would be a road improvements scheme in Leiston in Q4. Q3 would encompass smaller works on the A12, Little Glemham, Saxmundham and the Middleton footways on the B1125. Local road improvements would be pushed back to the latter part of the year in order to avoid congestion.		
3.05	David Seal provided a breakdown of the of the Q1-Q2 road closures. Local road improvement works were taking place in Yoxford. The Yoxford and Friday Street roundabouts would open to traffic in April.		
3.06	The NPR roundabout would open to traffic on 16 February. The Sizewell Link Road (SLR) roundabout would tie into the A12, operating from left to right and into the TCA. Piling works were taking place for the Rookery Park Railway Bridge, and earthworks were being		



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	prepared, to facilitate the permanent closure of Pretty Road. One or two of Abbey Lane, Moat Road and Pretty Road would remain open at any one time, with Pretty Road due to close next.		
3.07	David Peacop noted that the NPR had opened, and buses were operating on various routes. Orwell Logistic Park had opened; Rockford House had been decommissioned, and SZC would not use the adjacent airfield.		
3.08	The north plaza would become the main entrance to the site and sit on the end of SLR. Passenger services were running. Signs had been attached to the front and back of SZC vehicles. The south plaza would be tweaked to allow the rail line to run from left to right, also enabling SZC to have a facilities area for HGVs and marshal the AILs.		
	Questions and Answers		
3.09	Stuart Walmsley queried the configuration of the NPR and asked how SZC would manage the interface between the approaching traffic and traffic utilising the park and ride. David Seal responded that all traffic would go through the roundabout, and no group would be prioritised. Richard Bull added that the roundabout would operate normally. There was plenty of capacity.		
3.10	Stuart Walmsley asked what would happen to the section of the A12 that would become redundant. Richard Bull responded that the park and ride and roundabout would go, and the A12 would be reinstated on the original alignment. Stuart Walmsley asked if SZC would protect the road. Steve Merry explained that the road would be raised with curbed stones. There would also be fencing and planting to discourage vehicles from accessing the area.		
3.11	Stuart Walmsley asked if the SLR works were on schedule and how they would tie in with LionLink. David Seal responded that SZC targeted opening the SLR in Q3 2027. Richard Bull added that SZC was engaging with LionLink to ensure that the interfaces would be optimised.		
3.12	Andrew Turner asked if the Westleton works would take place at the same time the B1125 was blocked off at Blythburgh and Angel Lane. David Seal replied that they would, in principle. Andrew Turner queried the month the Westleton works would take place. David Seal responded that they would take place in early Q2, subject to road space bookings.		
3.13	Andrew Turner asked if SZC had modelled potential southbound traffic queuing on the A12. Richard Bull confirmed that SZC had. The modelling showed the roundabout operating effectively and with spare capacity. Andrew Turner asked if the modelling could be published. Richard Bull agreed to provide a link to the consolidated transport assessment. ACTION: Richard Bull to provide Andrew Turner with a link to the consolidated transport assessment.	RB	
3.14	Andrew Turner welcomed the orange HGV signs and asked if they would be placed in the windows. David Peacop confirmed that they would be. Andrew Turner asked what would happen to the SLR once the project was completed. Richard Bull and Steve Merry confirmed that it would remain.		



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3.15	<p>Josie Bassinette asked if the modelling accounted for more traffic emanating from the north of the A12. Richard Bull said it would have been based on the assumptions incorporated in the transport assessment. He agreed to check this.</p> <p>ACTION: Richard Bull to check if the traffic modelling for the north section of the A12 is based on the old assumptions in the transport assessment.</p>	RB	
3.16	<p>Josie Bassinette requested more information on the Darsham community park and ride. David Peacop said there would be 25 to 30 spaces at the southern end of the car park. Josie Bassinette stated that 25-30 parking spots would be insufficient and requested that SZC consult with residents on this.</p>		
3.17	<p>Josie Bassinette suggested that the Q1-Q2 2026 road closures timeline be uploaded onto the website, as the tracker was not accurately detailing road closures. Marjorie Barnes stated that the weekly bulletin detailed all road closures and impacted areas, and feedback had been positive.</p>		
3.18	<p>Nicky Corbett commended efforts to help free up the centre of Leiston. She asked if the workers living in Leiston would park their cars at the ACA and plaza before entering a bus. David Peacop said they would.</p>		
3.19	<p>Paul Ashton requested a reassurance that there was still time to implement the B1387 improvements and close the B1125 at Blythburgh before monitoring the impact of this for several months and starting work on extending the B1125 to the SLR. Richard Bull said SZC needed to deliver the scheme and would keep a watching brief. Failure to deliver the link would result in significant impacts. Rebecca Quigg added that seven permanent sites, including one on the B1125, had been agreed for traffic monitoring.</p>		
3.20	<p>Alexander Nicoll highlighted that there was evidence of lorry drivers parking in ad hoc places to take breaks, also leading to littering. David Peacop said lorry drivers were forced to stop in lay bys due to rest times and taco breaks. From the end of February, the NPR would be used to allow lorry drivers to take breaks.</p>		
3.21	<p>Steve Thorpe stated that Middleton was highly concerned that LionLink would be digging up much of the land that SZC had already done some landscaping to. He wanted to ensure that SZC coordinated with the different energy projects. Richard Bull said SZC was under contract to deliver a scheme, while Lion Link was going through a planning process.</p>		
3.22	<p>Steve Thorpe questioned whether SZC's diagrams could detail LionLink's routes and how they would be accommodated. Richard Bull said LionLink had a specific route it wanted to consider, which incorporated the SLR. SZC would continue to engage with LionLink.</p>		
3.23	<p>Steve Thorpe noted that it had been repeatedly stated that 3,000 vehicles would travel down Theberton village if the SLR link was not implemented. Richard Bull clarified that he was referring to the baseline traffic flow, which went through Theberton. If the link was not delivered to the SLR, Theberton would lose the opportunity to divert traffic to the SLR. Rebecca Quigg noted that the survey counter had been moved, at the request of Middleton cum Fordley PC.</p>		



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3.24	<p>Paul Collins noted that there had been no mention of the work to the east of Theberton and the B1122. David Seal confirmed that this work was part of the schedule and agreed to provide dates.</p> <p>ACTION: David Seal to determine the dates for the work to the east of Theberton and the B1122.</p>	DS	
3.25	<p>Paul Collins remarked that there were dangerous potholes on the B1122. Steve Merry stated that SCC was working closely with SZC to repair the potholes and inspect minor roads every three months rather than six months. He also encouraged residents to report potholes through the online reporting tool.</p>		
3.26	<p>Alexander Nicoll said residents were beginning to sense that some of the roads were deteriorating due to the heavier SZC vehicles. SZC should compensate the highways authority. vvv There was a body of anecdotal evidence that showed that the roads were being degraded more quickly. Steve Merry explained that SZC had committed to funding structural deterioration repairs, as part of the deed of obligation. SCC was working with SZC to find an agreement for SZC to fund the surface defects, while SCC would also attempt to secure funding from future NSIPs. Richard Bull acknowledged Nicoll's comments and agreed to consider them.</p>		
3.27	<p>John Walford said the exit from the old high road by the Yoxford crossing had been blocked, exacerbating traffic entering the A12. Night-time work had led to several complaints from residents. David Seal said the work would likely be finished in the next two months.</p>		
4	Rail Update		
4.01	<p>Stephen Keighley presented the report.</p>		
4.02	<p>The rail corridor construction was largely complete. Regarding the green rail route, work was taking place in zone 5 of the TCA, with work due to start in area 1, which was immediately adjacent to the branch line. Each end would be constructed towards each other.</p>		
4.03	<p>The track in the ACA was substantially complete, and the existing track was being removed. By the end of February there would be a completed route into the ACA, allowing operational testing.</p>		
4.04	<p>The power supply for the Leiston Station level crossing had been upgraded and commissioned, and some critical path bases in the southwest corner had been constructed. Work would now take place to remove the existing gas main, to help avoid any failure of it during works. Major cabinet and lifting equipment would be installed at the end of February. Attention would then shift to other areas before returning to Leiston at the end of the spring.</p>		
4.05	<p>Steve Deville reported that the Darsham level crossing would be upgraded to an MCB-OD. Tender submissions were being reviewed, and the intention was to minimise disruption. The current timescale was spring 2027.</p>		
4.06	<p>Engineering works would take place on the East Suffolk line during weekends in March. A bus replacement service would be in operation between Ipswich and Halesworth.</p>		
	Questions and Answers		



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4.07	Alexander Nicoll highlighted the engineering works and stated that there was no information that outlined if the closures would be 12 or 24-hour ones. He hoped that the process around Darsham incorporated lessons learned from previous issues.		
4.08	Nicky Corbett asked if the signalling cabinets would be noisy. Stephen Keighley said he believed there might be a slight hum.		
4.09	Josie Bassinette queried the period that the A12 would need to be closed for in order to install the Darsham level crossing. Steve Deville stated that this would become apparent once the contractor had been onboarded. Brian Stewart requested that this information be provided once it became available. ACTION: Steve Deville to provide the works timings for the Darsham level crossing once it becomes available.	SD	
4.10	Stuart Walmsley invited Network Rail to attend a Darsham PC meeting.		
4.11	Andrew Turner asked if the A12 diversion at Darsham would run through Westleton. Stephen Keighley said he understood that any diversion would need to run through a route equivalent in size to the one being closed. Andrew Turner requested that Network Rail attend a Westleton PC meeting.		
4.12	Cllr Hughes cautioned that the road closures would immensely impact local businesses and the tourist industry. Marjorie Barnes stated that SZC was mindful of the importance of local business trade and the tourist industry and reminded attendees of the funding provided to East Suffolk Council for a Business Support Service and Tourism Fund.		
4.13	Steve Thorpe asked Network Rail to attend a Middleton cum Fordley PC meeting regarding the closure of the A12 on the B1125.		
5	Traffic and Transport		
5.01	Rebecca Quigg presented the report.		
5.02	The transport review group (TRG) had been postponed until 23 February. The next traffic monitoring for the bi-annual survey points would take place in April.		
	Questions and Answers		
5.03	Stuart Walmsley highlighted a notable increase in HGVs and asked if this was being tracked in relation to the capping level. Rebecaa Quigg replied that this was tracked daily and reported weekly to the TRG.		
5.04	John Walford noted that there had been a visible increase in convoys, tailgating and speeding between the A12 and railway track on the B1125. Rebecca Quigg said the delivery team was actively working on convoys and new guidance was being issued, while SZC would continue to monitor any tailgating. John Walford also requested that SZC clean its vehicles.		
6	Q&A via Town and Parish Council Representatives		
6.01	Walberswick Parish Council – Josie Bassinette was satisfied that her questions had been adequately addressed.		



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6.02	<p>Sibton Parish Council – Sims said the road through Sibton Green was completely unsuitable for additional traffic. David Seal stated that SZC vehicles would use the A12 once the NPR was completed. David Peacop agreed to provide Sibton PC with a signage drawing.</p> <p>Action: SZC to provide Sibton PC with a signage drawing to demonstrate how SZC vehicles will access designated routes once the NPR is completed.</p>	DP	
6.03	<p>Darsham Parish Council – Stuart Walmsley requested visibility of the NPR proposals. David Peacop agreed to take this away as an action. Stuart Walmsley asked if the park and ride would remain open for 24 hours and if SZC would monitor all movements. David Peacop responded that SZC would monitor all movements. The working hours would change.</p> <p>ACTION: David Peacop to provide Darsham PC with access to the NPR proposals.</p> <p>Stuart Walmsley remarked that there was a strong desire to reduce the village’s speed limit to 20 mph. Rebecca Quigg stated that, while SZC could provide Darsham with its traffic data, it could not impose a speed limit. Steve Merry noted that guidance had been issued recently regarding 20 mph speed limits. Should the data highlight an impact, the TRG would review this.</p>	DP	
6.04	<p>Middleton cum Fordley Parish Council – Steve Thorpe was satisfied that the first question had been adequately addressed.</p> <p>Richard Bull said SZC had not committed to installing traffic calming measures on the Middleton section of the B1125. The TRG would be the best forum to discuss any additional mitigation. Steve Merry said SZC would be responsible for installing average speed cameras. He also suggested that SCC and Middleton discuss traffic calming measures.</p>		
6.05	<p>Westleton Parish Council – Rebecca Quigg said the temporary 50-mph signs on the S bend could be removed.</p> <p>Andrew Turner noted that Ricard Knight had previously referenced 80 community spaces at the NPR. Richard Knight confirmed that he had been incorrect. Andrew Turner queried the number of spaces. It was agreed that this would be confirmed.</p> <p>ACTION: Confirm the number of community parking spaces at the NPR.</p> <p>Andrew Turner asked if the NPR site would remain as legacy. Ricard Bull stated that while SZC had committed to removing the NPR, a conversation on the topic could take place in the future.</p>	DP	
6.06	<p>Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council – Steve Merry noted that there were concerns regarding the Benhall railway bridge. SeaLink had been asked to consider alternative options should it be unable to deliver the Fromus-Benhall rail bridge link.</p> <p>Paul Collins asked if the haul road would attach to the SLR and Plaza roundabout. Steve Merry replied that it would not.</p> <p>Richard Bull confirmed that the design of the link road allowed SZC to transport ALLs along the full routes.</p>		



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6.07	<p>Leiston cum Sizewell Town Council – Nicky Corbett highlighted that road closure signs at Friston were unclear. David Seal agreed to take this away.</p> <p>Nicky Corbett stated that the roads in Leiston and surrounding areas were awash with mud and loose material. David Peacop stated that baths would be introduced at the southern plaza and the old induction centre at SZB. There were also increased numbers of road sweepers.</p>		
6.08	Blythburgh Parish Council– Jude Blois was satisfied that the question had been adequately addressed.		
7	Date of Next Meeting		
7.01	Brian Stewart confirmed that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday 6 May.		
8	Close		
8.01	Brian Stewart closed the meeting.		