

Meeting Note



Northern Transport Forum

Meeting Type: Northern Transport Forum

Meeting held on: Wednesday 6 May 2026

Sizewell C Attendees:

Christine Abraham, 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
Rebecca Quigg, Transport Co-ordinator
Stephen Keighley, Rail Project Manager
Luke Stevens, Land Management Lead
Darren Benford-Brown, Community Safety Officer
Jez Porter, Stakeholder and External Roads Lead

External Attendees:

Cllr Josie Bassinette, Walberswick PC
Cllr Matthew Saunders, 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 Charles Macdowell, Middleton cum Fordley PC
Cllr David Watson, Westleton PC
John Sutherland, Yoxford PC
Cllr Stuart Walmsley, Darsham PC

External Stakeholders:

Suffolk Constabulary
Steve Merry, SCC Highways
East Suffolk Council

Apologies and Substitutions:

Cllr Andrew Turner; David Watson substituting
Cllr John Walford; John Sutherland substituting

1. Welcome and Introduction of the Chair and Panel
2. Meeting Note and Matters Arising from Previous Meeting (4 February 2026)
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 – 06/05/2026

Minute Ref	Actions/Comments	Who	By when
1	Welcome and Introduction of the Chair and Panel		
1.01	Christine Abraham welcomed the attendees. Apologies were noted from Cllr Andrew Turner and Cllr John Walford.		
2	Meeting Note and Matters Arising from Previous Meeting (4 February 2026)		
2.01	o 4.12 – Cllr Debbie Hughes noted that she had been referred to as 'Hughes'.		
2.02	Subject to the above amendment, the minutes of 4 February 2026 were approved.		

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2.03	The matters arising were as follows: 2.03 – Darren Benford-Brown said the speed camera van had attended Blythburgh, capturing 51 speeding offences during January, 12 in February and 40 in March. Cllr Matthew Saunders highlighted the other end of the village as a concern. SZC vehicles would be travelling at nearly 40 mph after exiting the 30 mph zone. The data did not apply to that area. Darren Benford-Brown outlined that the community policing team undertook speed enforcement, as did the abnormal indivisible loads (AIL) team. Changes would only happen if residents reported incidents online. 3.13 – A link to the consolidated transport assessment had been provided to Cllr Andrew Turner. 3.15 – Richard Bull confirmed that the traffic modelling for the north section of the A12 was based on the original traffic flows in the transport assessment, which had been updated to include the proposed changes to the B1125. 3.24 – The action would be covered during the meeting. 4.09 – The action was carried forward. 6.02 – The action would be covered during the meeting. 6.03 – David Peacop stated that much of the content in relation to the northern park and ride (NPR) had been included within the meeting presentation. 6.05 – It was confirmed that there would be 25 community parking spaces at the NPR. 6.07 – David Seal confirmed that he had reviewed road closure signs at Friston.		
2.04	Cllr Josie Bassinette said the NPR's 25 community parking spaces were insufficient. Richard Bull expressed a preference for an appropriate number of spaces that worked for all parties. It was agreed that this would be taken away as an action. ACTION: SZC to meet with communities requesting community spaces to attempt to find an agreement on community parking spaces.		
3	Road and Rail Updates		
3.01	David Peacop presented drone footage of the site. The southern park and ride (SPR) had opened and would be in full use by yearend. The two-village bypass remained a work in progress. The NPR had opened; buses were operating fully from the NPR and SPR.		
3.02	David Peacop detailed the ancillary construction area (ACA), main entrance to the temporary construction area (TCA), main construction area (MCA) and main access road. The batching plant was now producing concrete. The beach sheet pile wall was substantially complete. De-watering would take place at the end of the year, while earthworks would commence in the following year.		
3.03	David Seal reported that the B1122 early years work would take place between 19.00 and 05.00, resulting in no daytime disruptions. He highlighted the B1125 corridor works and Leiston rail crossing.		
3.04	The Friday Street and Yoxford roundabout works had been realised extremely well. Luke Stevens presented the landscaping designs for the Yoxford and Friday Street roundabouts and the NPR.		
3.05	David Seal reported on the Sizewell Link Road (SLR) associated road closures. Moat Road would close on 26 May, and Abbey Lane would open at the end of June. Pretty Road would then be closed in June or July.		

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3.06	SZC had created yellow signage saying 'businesses open as usual' that had been distributed throughout its schemes. David Seal detailed the road closures for Q2 to Q3 2026.		
3.07	David Peacop presented the park and ride bus routes and services and examples of parking notices. SZC was monitoring bus usage and was actively managing fly parking in conjunction with the police and monitoring teams.		
3.08	Richard Knight reported that Causeway one.network and OS map overlays had been incorporated within the works tracker. The Causeway one.network had launched in a hybrid state alongside the SZC works tracker. Causeway one.network would include a list of roadworks associated with SZC, with the list also being issued every Friday via text and email. Richard Knight agreed to circulate links to the network.		
3.09	The road network would be cleared during peak hours and for key events. Residents should inform him and Zoe Botten of any informal events to allow SZC to plan for them.		
	Questions and Answers		
3.10	Cllr Matthew Saunders asked if the monitoring team would also address speeding. David Peacop responded that it would not.		
3.11	Cllr Stuart Walmsley highlighted that he had pre-submitted a question related to the operation of the NPR. He queried the expected reductions on traffic flows as a direct consequence of the park and ride. He also asked which local communities SZC was meeting with to assess their urgent needs. Richard Bull stated that SZC wanted to deliver the park and rides as quickly as possible and reduce SZC traffic flows on the B1125. It would deliver the interventions and mitigation before outlining how it would ensure a better environment on the B1125.		
3.12	Cllr Charles Macdowell asked whether SZC also intended that blue-stickered trucks did not utilise the B1125. Richard Bull responded that SZC did but cautioned that there would be an element of traffic flow on the B1125. However, this had to be appropriate.		
3.13	Cllr Charles Macdowell asked if SZC was taking any action to reduce its badged vehicles from using the B1125. David Peacop responded that SZC was attempting to reduce the total flow and the reduce the number of roads used by the badged vehicles.		
3.14	Cllr Charles Macdowell asked if the roadworks were listed on the Causeway one.network. Richard Knight responded that they were listed on the works tracker. Cllr Charles Macdowell noted that the list of roadworks did not detail the form of traffic management that would be taking place. Richard Knight welcomed this feedback.		
3.15	Cllr Edwina Galloway questioned whether SZC could produce leaflets for residents in East Green, Kelsale cum Carlton and other areas, informing them of upcoming roadworks. Richard Knight agreed to take this forward. ACTION: SZC to consider producing leaflets for residents in East Green, Kelsale cum Carlton and other areas, informing them of upcoming roadworks.	RK	

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3.16	Cllr Debbie Hughes said the 'businesses open as usual' signs were not accounting for businesses to the north that were impacted by road closures. Several businesses in Southwold and Aldeburgh had witnessed significant declines in business. Cllr Debbie Hughes proposed a publicity campaign stating that the area remained open for business. Richard Bull highlighted the tourism fund and business support team at ESC, whom SZC liaised with. He would ensure that the tourism fund was as proactive as possible. He also agreed to provide Cllr Debbie Hughes with a specific email address for the business support team at ESC. The email address would be added to the meeting note as an addendum. ACTION: Richard Bull to provide Cllr Debbie Hughes with a specific email address for the business support team at ESC.	RB	
3.17	Cllr Matthew Saunders highlighted that he had provided photographic evidence of the lack of policing of diversion signs. Rebecca Quigg confirmed that she had circulated the feedback. She would also address it with the traffic management team and provide him with the action points. ACTION: Rebecca Quigg to provide Cllr Matthew Saunders with the traffic management team's action points in relation to incorrect traffic diversion signs.	RQ	
3.18	Cllr Matthew Saunders stated that SZC needed to be more specific and provide a clear commitment for when it would complete B1125 roadworks. Steve Merry outlined that the B1125 was booked for closure on 1 June. The contractor had been reminded of the importance of the works and the reputational and political risks should it fail to deliver them.		
3.19	Cllr Matthew Saunders noted that the temporary traffic lights at the NPR remained in place despite it being communicated that they would be lifted on 1 May. Richard Knight stated that they were due to be lifted in the current week.		
3.20	Cllr Nicky Corbett asked if Sizewell Gap Road and the SZB entrance would be used throughout the power station construction period. David Peacop replied that they would be and agreed to present a related slide at the next meeting. ACTION: David Peacop to present a slide at the next meeting that will detail the vehicles that will utilise the SZB entrance.	DP	
3.21	Cllr Nicky Corbett highlighted that contractor vehicles were parking in Market Place car park in Saxmundham. David Peacop agreed to review this. ACTION: David Peacop to investigate whether contractor vehicles are parking in Market Place car park.	DP	
3.22	Cllr Nicky Corbett stated that a recent Leiston workshop had repeated tourism actions that had been identified 18 months earlier, showing limiting progress. She urged SZC to work more proactively with ESC. Richard Bull agreed to discuss this with ESC. ACTION: Richard Bull to engage with ESC regarding a more proactive approach on tourism.	RB	
4	Rail Update		



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4.01	Stephen Keighley presented the report.		
4.02	The main track section for the green rail route (GRR) had been successfully installed. Buckleswood Road level crossing was scheduled to reopen in the last week of May. Regarding Abbey Road level crossing, new tracks had been installed across the road on 11 and 12 April. Abbey Road had closed for short durations in April and May to move materials across the road for the TCA rail connection.		
4.03	Stephen Keighley presented an indicative schedule for branch line level crossing updates. The level crossing works would be phased to ensure that the local area remained as open for business as possible. Saxmundham Junction would close from 23 to 31 May.		
4.04	Network Rail was currently reviewing tender submissions for detailed design and delivery of the Darsham level crossing upgrade. The contract award was expected in September, and it was anticipated that the work would take place in Q2 or Q3 2027.		
5	Traffic and Transport		
5.01	Richard Bull reported that the Transport Review Group (TRG) and Delivery Steering Group had granted SZC permission to increase the number of bus services and movements held within the HDV cap from 300 to 329. This would ensure that a reliable bus timetable could be run in order to reduce vehicle movements and congestion on local roads and in Leiston.		
5.02	Rebecca Quigg presented the transport monitoring report for Q4 2025. Maximum daily HDV movement had slightly exceeded the target. The issue had been rectified, and movements had dropped back to normal levels in November and December. The directional split of HGV movements had shifted slightly further towards the north; LGV movements remained low.		
5.03	The TRG had reviewed the latest round of traffic monitoring trends, identifying further investigation points. Funding had been provided to Knodishall for a traffic mitigation feasibility study; freight welfare provisions had been implemented at the NPR. Routes and HGV limits for OSI sites had been agreed. Parish workshops would take place in May.		
6	Q&A via Town and Parish Council Representatives		
6.01	Blythburgh Parish Council – <i>Why is Sizewell refusing to clean up the mud and dirt it leaves on local roads, especially adjacent to SLR work? My email on this issue dated 13 March has simply been ignored. How do you explain that? Ignoring correspondence is not a good look, is it?</i> David Seal stated that sweepers covered SZC's work areas as well as an additional 10% of surrounding areas. Cllr Matthew Saunders asked SZC to adopt more flexibility to mitigate the build-up of mud and dirt on roads. Marjorie Barnes highlighted that SZC had previously outlined that it would sweep roads daily. <i>Why are SZC vehicles using the B1125 as a cut-through instead of using the A12? The B1125 is a problem that you are exacerbating quite avoidably.</i> It was confirmed that the question had been addressed during the meeting.		
6.02	Darsham Parish Council – <i>In what seems a likely scenario, a number of local properties with multiple occupancy may be purchased or rented to accommodate SZC and contract staff. What assurances can you provide that this likely increase in residential density will not lead to a deterioration in the character of the rural</i>		

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	<i>communities, and in particular, excessive and unauthorised parking, the creation of additional parking spaces, and the resulting visual and practical impact on village life? How will those occupying these properties and those contracted to work for SZC travel to the main site? Will all staff, including subcontractors who are not directly employed by SZC, be required to use designated park and ride facilities? If so, how will this be controlled and enforced?</i> Richard Bull highlighted the accommodation fund, the Accommodation Working Group and the strong dialogue between SZC and the ESC private sector housing team. ESC had stated that it had not had any HMOs within Darsham. Larger HMOs would be subject to planning and licensing. Although the issue did not appear to be widespread, SZC had strong relationships and funding to manage it effectively. Cllr Stuart Walmsley asked how SZC would control the activities of staff. Richard Bull explained that members of the workforce would be asked to provide their home address and allocated park and ride site. Residents should inform SZC of any issues in this area. <i>What reduction in vehicle movements and overall traffic levels on the local road networks and local villages can be expected as a result of the park and ride and its associated bus services to the main site, and how will this translate into a percentage decrease in both peak times and average traffic volumes? Additionally, could the forum outline what specific provisions are being made to ensure cyclist safety? In particular, how will cyclists be supported when crossing junctions and safely navigating the newly constructed roundabouts?</i> It was confirmed that the first part of the question had been addressed during the presentation. Cllr Stuart Walmsley also asked if Willow Marsh Lane was still due to open in June. Cllr Matthew Saunders suggested that SZC rehabilitate the existing cycle path alongside the A12. Richard Bull agreed to take this away and review it. David Seal agreed to check the date when Willow Marsh Lane would open. ACTION: Richard Bull to review whether SZC can rehabilitate the existing cycle path alongside the A12. ACTION: David Seal to confirm when Willow Marsh Lane will open.	RB DS	
6.03	Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council – Can you give a completion date for the Bridleway 19 diversion all the way to its current termination on Eastbridge Road at the northern end of the accommodation campus? Has any agreement been reached with SCC public rights of way (PRoW) regarding its extension along the wide verge east of Eastbridge Road to the Lower Abbey Farm access road? David Seal stated that the Bridleway 19 diversion would be completed in Q3. Regarding the link adjacent to Eastbridge Road, Richard Bull agreed to highlight this within the PRoW Working Group. ACTION: Richard Bull to ascertain via the PRoW Working Group whether SZC, in partnership with SCC, can extend Bridleway 19 along the wide verge east of Eastbridge Road to the Lower Abbey Farm access road. <i>Has agreement with SCC PRoW been finalised regarding the re-routings and diversions to ensure all PRoW diversions to the west of Theberton village remain open both during and after the SLR construction and operation?</i> Richard Bull explained that a member of his team had been working with the contractor on the diversions	RB	

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	to ensure connectivity during construction. A drawing would be produced and shared with Cllr Paul Collins.		
6.04	Middleton Parish Council – When is the next B1122 Working Group meeting and will it cover issues arising from the construction of the SLR? Rebecca Quigg said the next B1122 Working Group meeting for Middleton would take place once the repurposing scheme had reached the co-design stage. Cllr Charles Macdowell expressed a preference for a working group meeting in the summer covering the B1122 and SLR. <i>Monitoring equipment was finally placed on the B1125 in Middleton (Leiston Rd) in April. However, despite numerous conversations about the appropriate location, as recommended by your own community policing team, it was placed somewhere completely different. After our complaint, it was moved to another position, but still not where we had all agreed it should go, then, after just a few days, it was permanently removed. How are we to trust meaningful data from this bungled exercise? Will the monitoring equipment be returned for more realistic data recording in the recommended and agreed position?</i> Rebecca Quigg stated that the monitoring equipment had been re-sited[?]. She noted that the equipment had been placed in a different area. Steve Merry had also raised concerns regarding the installation of the equipment, and she would highlight this to the traffic monitoring team.		
6.05	Westleton Parish Council – Can you please say when the traffic calming measures in Westleton will be implemented and if the speed camera at the northern end of the village will be hard-wired to the mains at the same time? David Seal stated that the Westleton works would take place between the B1387 improvements in June and the Essex & Suffolk water scheme works in November. Cllr David Watson asked how long it would take to reach Westleton. David Seal said it would take six to eight weeks. Rebecca Quigg agreed to review the duration and inform Westleton PC. ACTION: Rebecca Quigg to inform Westleton PC of the duration of the Westleton works. <i>We see many HGVs without the orange SZC board on the dashboard and many of the trucks are companies we know to be supplying SZC. Are HGVs originating from the north being given the boards, and are returning HGVs required to display them, and until what distance from the site?</i> David Peacop confirmed that HGVs originating from the north were being given the boards. Drivers were also instructed to display the board when returning via the A12. Should a parish spot a vehicle not displaying a board, it should document the vehicle registration number or company name.	RQ	
6.06	Leiston Town Council – Please can you confirm the long-term future usage of the entrance to the development site via SZB and when you anticipate this access will no longer be required? It was confirmed that the question had been answered during the meeting. Cllr Nicky Corbett asked whether a speed limit would be retained on Sizewell Gap. Steve Merry said he understood that SZC would reintroduce a temporary 30 mph speed limit that would be in place for the duration that SZC used Sizewell Gap. <i>While we appreciate that Abbey Road is used for other projects as well as SZC, the road surface is badly damaged. Are there plans to resurface the entire road once the GRR is completed and/or carry out pothole repair in the short term?</i> David Seal stated that resurface works were taking place from Rowley Mews to Abbey Lane.		

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	Steve Merry said the section from Rowley Mews and into the town had not been included within SZC's scope of works. Discussions were taking place with ScottishPower and SZC on how to cover costs.		
6.07	John Sutherland asked whether works at Darsham station would be integrated with the NPR. Stephen Keighley and David Peacop responded that there was an intention to.		
6.08	Responding to John Sutherland, Rebecca Quigg stated that SZC and ScottishPower met monthly during meetings chaired by SCC. Jez Porter noted that SZC was entering into a collaboration agreement with ScottishPower.		
6.09	Cllr Matthew Saunders remarked that Greater Anglia had failed to produce information that highlighted the impending nine-day closure of the East Suffolk line despite the issue being raised six months earlier. Stephen Keighley stated that SZC did not control Greater Anglia's communication but agreed to raise the issue with Network Rail. ACTION: SZC to contact Network Rail regarding Greter Anglia's communication of rail closures.	SK	
6.10	Cllr Nicky Corbett remarked that many HMOs were operating under the guise of holiday accommodation.		
6.11	Cllr Charles Macdowell questioned how the HDV movements had exceeded the cap in October. Rebecca Quigg explained that the cap breach had materialised due to a significant number of no-shows. After eradicating the issue of no-shows, movements had dropped back to normal levels.		
7	Date of Next Meeting		
7.01	Christine Abraham confirmed that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday 5 August.		
7.02	Christine Abraham noted that Stephen Keighley was attending his last forum meeting. On behalf of everyone present, she thanked him for his contributions and wished him the best in his retirement.		
8	Close		
8.01	Christine Abraham closed the meeting.		