# Meeting Note

## Community Forum

**Meeting Type:** Community Forum

**Meeting held on:** Thursday 19 March 2026

**Chair:**

Christine Abraham

**Sizewell C Attendees:**

**Panel:**
Nigel Cann – CEO
Damian Leydon – Site Delivery Director
Richard Bull – Head of Planning
Marjorie Barnes – Head of READ
Chris Young – Head of EAU

**Advisers:**
David Peacop – Site Operations Delivery
David Seal – Offsite Delivery Manager
Richard Knight – Senior Community Relations Manager
Jez Porter – SPM Highways
Zoe Botten – Community Relations Manager
Rebecca Quigg – Transport Co-ordinator
Darren Benford-Brown – Community Safety

**Town, Parish and County and District Councillors:**

Cllr Alison Bourne – Melton Parish Council
Cllr Stephen Brett – Theberton & Eastbridge Parish Council
Cllr Nicky Corbett – Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council
Cllr Tom Daly – East Suffolk Council
Cllr Katie Graham – East Suffolk Council
Cllr Sarah Whitelock – East Suffolk Council
Dr Charlotte Fox – Benhall & Sternfield Parish Council
Cllr Maureen Jones – Aldringham-cum-Thorpe Parish Council
Cllr Richard Smith – Suffolk County Council
Cllr Steve Thorpe – Middleton-cum-Fordley Parish Council

**External Stakeholders:**

Simon Barlow – Project Manager, Environment Agency
Office for Nuclear Regulation
Simon Amstutz – Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape

**Apologies and Substitutions:**
Jenny Riddell-Carpenter – MP for Suffolk Coastal
Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf – Suffolk County Council
Jess Asato – MP for Lowestoft
Jack Abbott – MP for Ipswich Central
Patrick Spencer – MP for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich

1. **Welcome and Introduction of the Chair and Panel**
2. **Opening Remarks**
3. **Community Relations**
4. **Project Look Ahead for 2026/2027 & Key Milestones**
5. **Sizewell C Workforce Update**
6. **Sizewell C Deed of Obligation Funding**
7. **Q&A – Via Town and Parish Council Representative**
8. **Dates of Future Meetings**
9. **Close**

**DRAFT Meeting Note – 19/03/2026**

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## Community Forum

| Minute Ref | Actions/Comments | Who | By when |
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| 1 | **Welcome and Introduction of the Chair and Panel** | | |
| 1.01 | The Chair opened the meeting and introduced themselves and the panel. She 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 Jenny Riddell-Carpenter and TJ Haworth-Culf. | | |
| 1.03 | Actions from the 23 October 2025 meeting were as follows: | | |
| 1.04 | 3.05 – Damian Leydon had met with Steve Thorpe regarding the Sizewell Link Road (SLR). | | |
| 1.05 | 3.06 – Damian Leydon had met with John Cross regarding the right turn onto the A12. | | |
| 1.06 | 5.04 – it had been confirmed that the ambulance service was included in Causeway one.network's real-time network visibility and route-planning coordination. | | |
| 1.07 | 5.17 – a meeting had yet to take place with Saxmundham Town Council regarding parking pressures within the town, but SZC was happy to continue with the meetings, if required. | | |
| 1.08 | The notes of the 23 October 2025 meeting were approved. | | |
| 1.09 | The Chair highlighted that the recent forum survey indicated a consensus that forums were operating satisfactorily and met attendees' requirements. | | |
| 2 | **Opening Remarks Nigel Cann CEO Sizewell C** | | |
| 2.01 | Nigel Cann introduced himself as the new CEO of Sizewell C and gave a brief outline of his background and that he had previously worked at Sizewell B. He stated that he was extremely committed to bringing benefit to the area. SZC was doing everything possible to expedite works and bring forwards the benefits of new infrastructure. He encouraged NSIPs to work together to minimise disruption and maximise integration. SZC was extremely keen to deliver benefits beyond its commitments. The team continued to work with local organisations and was encouraged to listen and link into community visions and strategies. | | |
| 3 | **Community Relations** | | |
| 3.01 | Marjorie Barnes presented the report. | | |
| 3.02 | The project was delivering on strong commitments to invest in communities most impacted. New roads and roundabouts would open in the coming weeks. The workforce was increasing steadily, and SZC was investing in its accommodation, with 500 rooms at Pakefield. Work was taking also place with SZB to house some of its outage workers and for SZB to utilise SZC's bus service. | | |
| 3.03 | SZC had delivered six rounds of funding, in partnership with Suffolk Community Foundation. Suffolk Community Foundation had also launched the Suffolk infrastructure fund, presenting an opportunity to maximise benefit for the county. | | |
| 3.04 | SZC, in conjunction with Community Action Suffolk, had launched a new volunteering platform. | | |

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| 3.05 | £1 billion had been committed to businesses in the region, with meaningful engagement taking place with organisations.<br><br>Regarding education, SZC was committed to investing in people and communities, particularly in skills. The SZC school council at Alde Valley Academy had enabled SZC to introduce the school and pupils to opportunities and raise ambition and aspirations. Work was taking place with News Quest on a programme called Born & Read. | | |
| 3.06 | Marjorie Barnes highlighted upcoming local events. A family activity day would be held at the new SZC Visitor Centre on 1 April; Wild Aldhurst would host an open day in July. Cinema in the Park would take place at Park Hill/Victory Road on 1 August. | | |
| 3.07 | SZC archaeologists had been sharing their findings. The new visitor centre had opened, bringing together SZB and SZC to inspire and engage the next generation and wider community. Marjorie Barnes reminded residents that they could contact the community relations team regarding any queries. | | |
| **4** | **Project Look Ahead for 2026/2027 & Key Milestones** | | |
| 4.01 | Damian Leydon presented the drone video flyby. | | |
| 4.02 | The southern park & ride (SPR) had opened, with buses travelling to the site. The SPR was expected to be fully completed by September. Friday Street roundabout was forming, and the road would open for usage by the end of March. Yoxford roundabout would also open for public use at the end of the month. There would be two weekends' worth of closures on the A12 at the point that both roundabouts were linked to the A12. Secure buses were running from the northern park & ride (NPR), which would be fully completed by September. | | |
| 4.03 | Approximately 50% of archaeology works was being undertaken on the SLR, bypassing Middleton Moor and Theberton and Eastbridge, onto the B1122. All schemes had been designed to be built off the highway, to limit disruption. | | |
| 4.04 | Damian Leydon presented the ancillary construction area (ACA) and temporary construction area (TCA). The rail route for the TCA would be completed within the next month. The big bulk earthworks on the TCA would be completed by the summer and then dressed into their final state for the main build. | | |
| 4.05 | The civils for the temporary concrete batcher would be completed by the end of the month, with trial mixes commencing at the end of April. Desalination plant foundations had commenced; the first bailey bridge had been installed. The temporary sea defence wall was close to completion. The environmental cut-off barrier would incorporate a continuous wall and link round. At this point, SZC would be able to de-water and gain the land. | | |
| 4.06 | Damian Leydon presented images depicting how the SPR, NPR and Orwell Logistics Park would look in their final states. Staff had moved into Orwell Logistics Park, while the freight management facility (FMF) was also based at Orwell. New signalised crossing had been installed on the A12 at Yoxford, with further signalised crossing due to be installed at Marlesford and Little Glemham. Local road improvements continued, in collaboration with ScottishPower. SZC remained engaged with the NSIPs on planning. | | |

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| 4.07 | The archaeology for the two-village bypass was complete, while piling platforms were being installed over the River Alde. Earthworks and piling drainage on the SLR would commence in the coming months. | | |
| 4.08 | Damian Leydon presented images of the campus, north plaza, southern plaza and main development site. | | |
| **5** | **Sizewell C Workforce Update** | | |
| 5.01 | Chris Young emphasised the importance of local workforces in the project, which would enable SZC to deliver safely, efficiently and responsibly. A local workforce would also ensure that economic and social benefits remained in Suffolk. To meet workforce needs responsibly, SZC would follow three core streams: interventions and partnerships, incubation and infrastructure investment. | | |
| 5.02 | The 50/30/20 ambition was key. 50% of the workforce would have worked at HPC or other European pressurised reactor (EPR) construction projects. 30% of the workforce would live in Suffolk, within a 90-minute travelling radius, while 20% of the workforce would be made up of new entrants. SZC would deliver the College on the Coast, in partnership with Suffolk New College, and was also committed to delivering a centre of excellence. An extra £24 million would be invested in additional skills. | | |
| 5.03 | All staff were expected to sign the SZC worker code of conduct. SZC would support staff through occupational health services, regular wellbeing campaigns, health screenings, mental health support and community-orientated events and engagement. | | |
| **6** | **Sizewell C Deed of Obligation Funding Update** | | |
| 6.01 | Richard Bull highlighted the important of East Suffolk Council (ESC) and Suffolk County Council (SCC) in ensuring effective operation of the Deed of Obligation (DoO). The agreement provides the funding for the services required by SZC, also ensuring that they were robust for the local community. To date, SZC had paid SCC approximately £20 million in funding, for the resourcing of Council Officers, the Emergency Services, Public Services Resilience and Skills and Education. Additionally, The Natural Environment Improvement Fund was now live and the Awards Panel, chaired by Simon Amstutz from National Landscapes, made their first funding award in the last week. SCC also have received a funding contribution to the A12 Major Roads Network scheme and for enhancements to Public Rights of Way.<br><br>ESC has received £19 million in funding for the resourcing of Council Officers and also the funds in place to support Accommodation, Tourism and Economic Development. | | |
| 6.02 | Richard Bull presented the structure for the governance groups and key areas of oversight. The groups have been meeting regularly since commencement of works under the Development Consent Order (DCO), and all meeting records were hosted on the ESC website. | | |
| 6.03 | Richard Bull highlighted the noise mitigation scheme. SZC had written to all homeowners who qualified for the scheme. To date, 570 properties had been invited to apply for the insulation scheme, which was close to completion. SZC would now roll out the ventilation only scheme. Positive feedback had been received from residents who have had works completed. | | |

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| 6.04 | The East Suffolk Trust environmental charity had been registered and was accepting grant applications. £78 million had been pledged over the next 70 years, for duration of construction and throughout the lifetime of operation. Richard Bull illustrated the other NSIPs development footprint across Suffolk and how SZC was working closely with other projects to minimise impacts in the area and coordinate works. SZC and ScottishPower Renewables have been collaborating on the delivery of works where both projects have commitments in the same location. | | |
| **7** | **Q&A – via Town and Parish Council Representative** | | |
| 7.01 | Pre-submitted Question: Aldeburgh Town Council<br>**Q1.** We note the University of Suffolk SZC commissioned baseline study published December 2025. May we please learn whether continuation of the study has been agreed, and if so when we might look for its publication. We would also be interested to learn what decisions have been implemented as a result of the findings in this study.<br><br>**Q2.** We also note minutes of the Accommodation Working Group 12th January 2026 and the Tourism Working Group 18th November 2025 (we see there may have been another meeting for the TWG on 10th February 2026). ESC's website redesign does not make it particularly transparent how to find these, both of these areas are of vital interest to the Town. May we ask that these could either be sent to ATC's Office going forward or improve web access? We would also like to learn how we are able to have input into any of the discussions at going forward.<br><br>**A1.** Regarding the first question, Marjorie Barnes reported that the University of Suffolk had been commissioned to continue with its study. The next piece of research would be conducted by the same researchers.<br><br>**A2.** In relation to the second question, Richard Bull stated that SZC wanted to ensure that the working groups minutes were available on the ESC website, which has had a recent update. The meeting records are listed under each governance group which are straightforward to access. The ESC website will continue to be the primary means of releasing meeting records going forward. | | |
| 7.02 | Pre-submitted Question: Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf. Suffolk County Council (*note: cllr Haworth-Culf was unable to attend meeting. The response has been shared).*<br>**Q1** As a long-term Aldeburgh High Street retailer with five different styled shops (both community and tourism led) we understand the impact that the roadworks have had on Aldeburgh and its High Street businesses. What help can be offered to businesses who have struggled since the roadworks commenced?" Due to the highly visible loss of shops in Leiston, the public would like to learn how you plan to support particularly micro and small businesses in the area, we welcome independent shops however we know that general "chain" or multiples are needed by residents too. And "having noted with interest the bicycle initiative in Leiston, could this be rolled out to include Aldeburgh and Thorpeness so both local people and those visiting could benefit from being able to enjoy this activity? Aldeburgh has many properties with little or no outside space so a bicycle isn't something residents can own or visitors bring with them and store safely.<br><br>**Q2.** Local businesses report that Sizewell C (+SPR) roadworks and the sharp drop in holiday-let turnover are significantly affecting Aldeburgh High Street and future business confidence. Would Sizewell C work with East Suffolk Council and any other project that may come to the area to provide several years of free parking in Aldeburgh and | | |

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| | Thorpeness (Division) to help support businesses and encourage tourism during the construction period.<br><br>**A1.** In relation to the first question, Richard Bull stated that SZC aimed to complete roadworks as quickly as possible. Businesses with concerns about the impact of the roadworks were encouraged to contact the ESC Economic Development Team. (sizewellceconomicprogramme@eastsuffolk.gov.uk) Regarding extending the bicycle initiative wider than Leiston, Jack Raven, project manager for Net Zero Leiston, was happy to discuss the topic with TJ Haworth-Culf. If the scheme was being used and popular, it would be a natural look to extend it to other local areas. Richard Bull added that there was a Public Rights of Way Fund held by SCC, and part of the aspiration for the Fund is to deliver an off-road cycle route from Aldeburgh to Southwold.<br><br>**A2.** Regarding the second question, the Leiston free parking initiative was funded by the DoO from the European Sites Access Contingency Fund minimise any impact to designated sites from recreational displacement. The fund could not be extended to apply to Aldeburgh, but SZC could discuss the matter with the parking team at ESC.<br><br>**ACTION**: SZC to hold discussions with ESC to ascertain whether ESC could provide free parking in Aldeburgh and Thorpeness via another route. READ Team to take forward (Marjorie Barnes) | | |
| 7.03 | Pre-submitted Question: Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council<br>**Q1.** When will the Open Reach broadband improvements be rolled out to Leiston and surrounding villages?<br><br>**A1**.Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council – Marjorie Barnes stated that SZC had no input on the beneficial areas for Openreach improved services. She suggested that Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council follow up with Openreach.<br>*Afternote: Nigel Cann agreed to write to his CEO counterpart at BT Openreach requesting update.* | | |
| 7.04 | **Question and Answer from the floor:** | | |
| 7.05 | Marlesford Parish Council Cllr Richard Cooper – Is any compensation for businesses available?<br>Richard Bull said SZC could not provide compensation to businesses for any loss of income, and that any statutory compensation would be dependent on location and proximity to the SZC development boundary. SZC is able to offer support through the ESC Economic Development Team. | | |
| 7.06 | Melton Parish Council: Cllr Alison Bourne remarked that while Melton was one of the furthest parishes from SZC, trains operating overnight would impact the glamping site by Melton train station. She asked Richard Bull what he meant when stating proximity from SZC would determine whether a town would receive support.<br>Richard Bull said SZC was very willing to engage and listen, but this would need to be on a case-by-case basis. While SZC would not compensate businesses, there were other routes for providing support. | | |
| 7.07 | Leiston Town Council. Cllr Nicky Corbett highlighted an apparent onus on East Suffolk Council (ESC). There were no significant contributions, and Leiston-cum-Sizewell awaited initiatives to help support economic development and tourism. Although SZC was | | |

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| | addressing issues with the Leiston Car Park, Leiston had asked ESC to install free parking bays for residents. It was frustrating that Leiston had no direct involvement in the review groups. Richard Bull said SZC was happy to facilitate a discussion on both issues. | | |
| 7.08 | Aldringham-cum-Thorpe Parish Council. Cllr Maureen Jones stated that Thorpeness was encountering issues with cars parking on roads, resulting in local residents having to use the car park. She would welcome free car park spaces for local residents.<br>ACTION: Richard Bull agreed to take this away with Marjorie Barnes. | | |
| 7.09 | Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape; Simon Amstutz noted that he had submitted a written question that had been rejected. He had then submitted a revised question regarding the best use of the Natural Environment Improvement Fund, which had not been answered. Marjorie Barnes agreed to review this. She also hoped that Simon Amstutz felt the issue had been addressed during Richard Bull's presentation | | |
| 7.10 | Benhall & Sternfield Parish Council Cllr Dr Charlotte Fox stated that Benhall & Sternfield Parish Council had not been designed to cope with NSIPs. The parish council held six meetings per year, relying heavily upon its clerk, whose limited hours were insufficient to handle their workload. There should be some recognition of the number of hours that parish councillors and clerks were dedicating to represent their communities. Marjorie Barnes recalled that the topic had been previously discussed. SZC was mindful that parish councillors would need to dedicate significant time, and it had attempted to introduce different approaches to information sharing, to help alleviate some of the workload for parish councillors and clerks. However, SZC was unable to fund roles within the parish councils. | | |
| 7.11 | Middleton-Cum-Fordley Parish Council Cllr Steve Thorpe highlighted the requirement for certain actions to be addressed within a suitable timeframe. He also noted that HGV drivers were using lay-bys in Middleton as toilets. David Peacop stated that SZC had introduced an FMF in the NPR, while there were also toilet facilities in the plaza. All lay-bys were being monitored. | | |
| 7.12 | Steve Thorpe requested clarification on the use of the B1125, as many LGVs were travelling down it. Richard Bull stated that the A12/B1122 was the designated HGV route. Any vehicle less than 3.5 tonnes was encouraged to use the designated route but did not have to. As the NPR was now open, there should be a significant reduction in traffic flow on the B1125. Damian Leydon said there were now areas on site where bigger vehicles could travel. By the end of the year, only vehicles that needed to access remote parts of the project would need to travel to site. | | |
| 7.13 | Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council Cllr Stephen Brett welcomed the help for struggling businesses but questioned what would happen if the support was unsuccessful. Richard Bull remarked that SZC wanted businesses to thrive, and it needed to protect them to ensure that they had the benefits as the project matured. Continued dialogue with impacted businesses should take place to resolve the issues. Marjorie Barnes said SZC would keep encouraging dialogue. SZC and businesses should work together to open access points for business support. | | |
| **8** | **Dates of Future Meetings** | | |
| 8.01 | The next Community Forum would be on 22 October at the Sizewell Visitor Centre. | | |
| **9** | **Close** | | |

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| 9.01 | The meeting closed at 19.46. | | |