DRAFT Meeting Note

Southern Transport Forum

Meeting Type: Southern Transport Forum

Meeting held on: Wednesday 2 September 2026

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
Richard Knight, Senior Community Relations Manager
Zoe Botten, Community Relations Manager
Darren Benford-Brown, Community Safety Officer
Vidhya Issac-Langford, Network Rail
David Taylor, Network Rail

External Attendees:

Cllr David Chenery, Wickham Market PC
Cllr Jill Pass, Farnham with Stratford St Andrews PC
Cllr Richard Cooper, Marlesford PC
Cllr Robin Sanders, Woodbridge TC
Dr Charlotte Fox, Benhall & Sternfield PC
Cllr Geraldine Barker, Saxmundham TC
Cllr Russ Rainger, Snape PC
Cllr Alexander Nicoll, Melton PC
Cllr David Findley, Ufford PC
Cllr Graeme Watts, Brightwell, Foxhall and Purdis Farm Group PC
Klaus Fortmann, Campsea Ashe PC

External Partners:

Steve Merry, SCC Highways
Suffolk Constabulary

Apologies and Substitutions:

Rebecca Quigg

1. **Welcome and Introduction of the Chair and Panel**
2. **Meeting notes and matters arising from Southern Transport Forum (3 June 2026)**
3. **Road and Rail Updates**
4. **Traffic Movements and Transport Review Group Update**
5. **Q&A via Town and Parish Council Representative**
6. **Date of Next Meeting**
7. **Close**

DRAFT Meeting Minutes – 02/09/2026

Minute Ref	Actions/Comments	Who	By when
1 1.01	**Welcome and Introduction of the Chair and Panel – (Chair)** The Chair opened the meeting, welcomed the attendees and outlined emergency procedures. He notified the forum that Little Bealings PC had communicated that it had gained as much information as possible from attending forum meetings and no longer required a forum representative. Apologies were noted from Rebecca Quigg.		
2	**Meeting Notes and matters arising from Southern Transport Forum (3 June 2026)**		
2.01	The minutes of 3 June 2026 were approved.		
2.02	The matters arising were as follows: ○ 3.11 – David Seal stated that the signage at Friday Street was temporary and would become permanent once the two-village bypass had been built.		

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	Steve Merry added that an interim road safety audit 3 had been undertaken on Friday Street. ○ 3.16 – Vidhya Issac-Langford stated that National Grid had yet to confirm its plans for the closure of Benhall Bridge. The action remained open. ○ 3.17 – To be addressed in a pre-submitted question. ○ 4.07 – Completed.		
3	**Road and Rail Updates**		
	Road		
3.01	David Peacop presented drone footage of the site. The southern park & ride (SPR) was operating; the main bridge for the two-village bypass was progressing. The northern park & ride (NPR), along with the SPR, would be completed by Christmas, with landscaping works planned on all roundabouts and park and rides. David Peacop highlighted the Sizewell Link Road (SLR).		
3.02	The rail line for the ancillary construction area (ACA) was complete. Drainage and utility works were taking place in the ACA; archaeology had commenced for the College on the Coast. The rail line was progressing through the temporary construction area (TCA). The first part of the batching plant was being erected. The road was emerging through the main construction area (MCA); the seawall defence was in place.		
3.03	Richard Bull explained that SZC intended to redevelop the remaining parcel of land on the Orwell Logistics Park (OLP) site to create a high-quality office building and open storage space. A planning application was being developed in conjunction with ESC. The proposal would include improvements to access and egress on the A14 to accommodate the additional vehicle movements.		
3.04	David Seal reported that the two-village bypass project remained on schedule. Galliford Try had been replaced by Breheny Civil Engineering for the two-village bypass programme and Kier for the SLR works. A haul road from east to west was nearing completion.		
3.05	David Seal presented the local road improvements and anticipated commencement dates. A new footpath was currently being constructed in Marlesford. Road closures were outlined.		
3.06	David Peacop stated that considerable stakeholder engagement and collaboration was taking place with other stakeholders, including NSIPs. Regarding the SPR, the removal of contractor two-storey offices and compound would commence in September. The modular accommodation would be introduced in early 2027. Staff were being educated on how to use the park and rides; worker parking spaces had been allocated.		
	Rail		
3.07	David Seal reported that the green rail route (GRR) track had been installed. Regarding Buckleswood and Abbey Road level crossings, the rail had been installed and track welded and stressed.		
3.08	Track renewals at the ESK junction had been completed successfully in May; further track works were planned for the last two weeks of September. Troughing route works remained. Signalling works on the ESK and branch line continued to plan.		

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3.09	The objective was to have four trains per night, Monday to Friday, travel into the TCA. Under current planning, the service would commence after the successful completion of the signalling works in November. A limited, routine train service was planned to commence from 7 September. Gate closures at level crossings would be dictated by Network Rail operational requirements and would typically last between three and five minutes.		
3.10	Vidhya Issac-Langford reported that autumn engineering works would take place from 24 October to 1 November. Engagement had taken place with Greater Anglia to communicate the works. A rail replacement bus service would operate during this time. Additional information was available on Greater Anglia's website.		
3.11	Network Rail intended to award the construction contract for the Melton level crossing works in November 2026. Stage 1 comprised of highway works, followed by railway works in stage 2 and commissioning in stage 3. Stages 1 and 2 would conclude by Easter 2027; the completion date of stage 3 works was still to be determined. Emergency vehicle access would remain during these closures.		
	Q&A		
3.12	Responding to Cllr Richard Cooper, David Peacop stated that 300 spaces were currently available in the SPR. Maximum utilisation of the SPR would likely commence in 12 months.		
3.13	Cllr David Findley asked whether solar panels would be installed on the new building at OLP. Richard Bull noted the sentiment from Cllr David Findley and stated that SZC would ensure that this would be fully considered during detailed design. Communication would follow at a later stage regarding whether solar panels would be possible.		
3.14	Cllr Richard Cooper noted that the Marlesford improvement scheme would be accompanied by overnight closures. David Seal confirmed that the works would take place during weeknights, from 20.00 to 05.00.		
3.15	Klaus Fortmann asked whether road closures and traffic management could be documented within a separate slide. Richard Knight confirmed that such detail was included within the works tracker and weekly updates. He agreed to send this to Klaus Fortmann.		
3.16	Responding to Cllr David Chenery, Jez Porter stated that the Wickham Market traffic calming scheme would commence in Q2 2027. Richard Bull added that SZC had received Cllr David Chenery's email regarding the message boards proposed for the TRO information event. The scheme was at the forefront of SZC's thinking.		
3.17	Cllr Geraldine Barker asked if other projects would be able to use SZC's park and rides. Richard Bull responded that SZC was happy to consider sharing these facilities, subject to its own use and requirements.		
3.18	Cllr David Findley reported a 25% increase in traffic in Ufford over a six-month period. He requested a reassurance that the process would progress quickly. Richard Bull said SZC wanted to organise the TRO information consultation event for the Wickham Market scheme as soon as practically possible		
3.19	Cllr Robin Sanders noted that Ipswich Town would be playing Arsenal on 15 September and suggested that SZC advise the football club of the impending A12 road works.		

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3.20	Cllr Richard Cooper sought reassurance that landscaping works for the SPR would take place before Christmas. David Seal explained that SZC planned to complete these works during the autumn and winter.		
3.21	Klaus Fortmann requested more prompt responses from the traffic monitoring group. Richard Bull agreed to discuss this separately. He also agreed to check whether any additional information was to be provided.		
3.22	Klaus Fortmann requested that a parish council representative sit on the Transport Review Group (TRG). Richard Bull said this was not possible. There was a separate set of engagement with parish councils. The TRG minutes were also published on the ESC website.		
3.23	Responding to Cllr Jill Pass, David Seal stated that he did not anticipate any further contractor changes before completion of the two-village bypass.		
3.24	Dr Charlotte Fox asked whether there would be any availability problems with contractors once the other developments commenced. David Peacop responded that each contractor had different core skills. There were enough contractors.		
3.25	Cllr Robin Sanders stated that the East Suffolk Community Energy Partnership had formally approached SCC regarding having a representative on the TRG. Steve Merry agreed to check who was responding to this request.		
3.26	Cllr Richard Cooper requested visibility of the meeting dates for the traffic monitoring group.		
3.27	Cllr Geraldine Barker asked National Rail to ensure that Saxmundham residents receive written communication in advance of the upcoming autumn works. Vidhya Issac-Langford agreed to discuss this with Emily Wood.		
3.28	Cllr Alexander Nicoll highlighted the Melton level crossing works and the importance of communications. He requested that Network Rail schedule a meeting with impacted parish councils before the next southern transport forum. Vidhya Issac-Langford stated that Network Rail was happy to schedule a meeting.		
3.29	Cllr Russ Rainger queried the time that the four trains would travel into the TCA. David Seal said responded that the trains would likely run from 23.00 to 05.00.		
3.30	Klaus Fortmann requested that Campsea Ashe be included in any discussions related to diversion routes during the Melton level crossing works.		
3.31	Klaus Fortmann asked if Network Rail could review a dedicated bus diversion route between Melton and Campsea Ashe. David Taylor stated that Network Rail coordinated with SCC Highways to ensure that diversion routes were suitable. Network Rail would also address the issue with Greater Anglia.		
3.32	Cllr Jill Pass asked whether emergency vehicles had been considered as part of the level crossing gate closures. David Taylor responded that there would be no issues related to the Melton level crossing works as the road was not being dug up. Cllr Alexander Nicoll suggested that this be communicated to residents. He also noted that there had been		

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	signage issues during previous track bed works. David Taylor said Network Rail would apply the lessons learned and would have its own teams running the routes.		
3.33	Cllr Geraldine Barker said she understood that Cllr Jill Pass had been attempting to explain that emergency services would be impacted by level crossing gate closures as trains travelled to and from the TCA. She suggested that the proposed times be circulated to emergency services. David Peacop said work was taking place in this area. Steve Merry added that SCC was acutely aware of this issue. Emergency services were notified in advance of road closures.		
3.34	Cllr Geraldine Barker clarified that her concerns extended to the duration of the level crossing gate closures as the trains travelled to and from the TCA. David Seal said the train crossings would be scheduled. The level crossings would be heavily manned, and a train would be reversed if an emergency vehicle required access.		
3.35	Cllr David Findley said SZC needed to clarify its associated providers. He also stated that he found it difficult to understand the Causeway one.network.		
3.36	Cllr Robin Sanders asked whether any work had taken place with Network Rail to reduce level crossing closure timeframes for Haywards Crossing (Tide Mill Way) and Ferry Lane Crossing. David Taylor agreed to raise this. **ACTION**: Review the level crossing closure timeframes for Haywards Crossing (Tide Mill Way) and Ferry Lane Crossing.	NR	
4	**Traffic Movements and Transport Review Group Update**		
4.01	Richard Bull presented the transport monitoring report for Q2 2026.		
4.02	Maximum HGV movements were 621 for April, 595 for May and 580 for June. The directional split of HGV movements had reached 64% southbound and 36% northbound for April, 63% southbound and 37% northbound for May and 70.40% southbound and 29.60% northbound for June. The TRG continued to review the directional split. LGV movements remained consistently below the limit.		
4.03	The Q3 TRG had taken place. Key topics addressed included the traffic monitoring report, transport monitoring report, passenger transport developments and emergency mitigation measures.		
	Q&A		
4.04	Cllr David Chenery noted that he had asked Rebecca Quigg to record traffic volumes for the SPR to help monitor annual growth and whether this was in line with expectations. Richard Bull agreed to take this away. **ACTION:** Check whether it is possible to record traffic volumes for the SPR.	RB/RQ	
4.05	Klaus Fortmann stated that Ivy Lodge Road had been exposed to considerable traffic. He asked whether the site could be monitored for traffic. Steve Merry clarified that this was a matter for the TRG and agreed to take this away as a TRG action.		

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4.06	Cllr Russ Rainger said Snape PC still awaited a meeting with Rebecca Quigg to review traffic data. He also requested that the parish councillors receive current traffic data. **ACTION**: Attempt to provide current traffic management data.	 SZC	
5	**Q&A via Town and Parish Council Representatives**		
5.01	**Ufford and Melton PCs –** ***The East Suffolk Line is an important supply route for the SZC construction project and will be for a number of years ahead. Following the significant breach of the River Deben at Ufford, the Environment Agency, SCC, Natural England, Water Management Alliance, local landowners and three parish councils – Ufford, Melton and Bromeswell – agreed a long-term plan for improving this area of the River Deben, from Eyke to Melton. The East Suffolk Line was identified as being at risk of undermining, erosion and potential collapse over the life of the SZC project. Network Rail and SZC were alerted to this issue at the June STF meeting and now need to be aware of and engaged in finding solutions to mitigate these risks and those of flooding in the area. What is SZC management's response to these concerns and how do you want to become involved?*** David Taylor said Network Rail was aware of the issues. He committed to communicating the concerns to Network Rail's in-house team. He had also agreed to visit the site. Richard Bull stated that SZC would request assurances. It had invested heavily in enhancing the railway, and the East Suffolk line was a key route for the project. Any failure of the line would directly impact the programme. SZC was also happy to visit the site.		
5.02	**Snape PC –** ***The notice that the closure of the Leiston, Station Road crossing is now expected to continue until the end of September is disappointing. Snape PC recognise that every parish are suffering their own traffic issues. However, the closure at Station Road is having significant impact on the traffic volumes through the village and along the A1094. While we appreciate that SZC traffic favours the northern route, do SZC or ScottishPower have any data to confirm the volumes of traffic the Snape area is suffering through the August and September closure? This impact is going to be further aggravated by the Hacheston closure.*** Richard Bull stated that SZC did not have any data. He was happy to ask ScottishPower if it had any data. ***Is there any update on the parish council request for the closure of the informal layby on the A1094? The regular use of the verge to park is damaging the green and obstructs driver vision when exiting onto the A1094 from Sternfield.*** Cllr Russ Rainger said the topic was being addressed with Steve Merry.		
5.03	**Brightwell, Foxhall and Purdis Farm Group PC –** ***The parish council has been notified of a prior notification for proposed demolition land adjoining OLP, A14 Nacton Heath Bound, Nacton Heath, Ipswich. The applicant is SZC. Does this mean that there will be further development at OLP or adjacent to it?*** Richard Bull confirmed that SZC was developing a new office building. He also advised that the likely timescale for the application was three months.		
5.04	**Woodbridge TC –** ***In the light of the announcement of the dismissal of the contractor Galliford Try from the two villages and SLR ECI contract, can the forum be advised of the projected delay to the completion of each of the highways and the impact of this on current highways, travel times and residents along them?*** Question already addressed.		

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	Can SZC publish an expected programme of nighttime freight train movements along the East Suffolk Line? Question already addressed.		
5.05	**Farnham with Stratford St Andrews PC – *We would like to request that consideration be given to conducting further air quality monitoring on the A12 at Stratford St Andrew. Since the previous tests were carried out, the speed limit on this stretch of road has been reduced to 30mph, and traffic frequently comes to a standstill due to congestion. Given that conditions have changed considerably since the 2024 testing, we believe it would be worthwhile to reassess whether the existing data remains representative.*** Richard Bull stated that he had contacted ESC, and he suspected that ESC was routinely monitoring air quality in the area in question. If the area was not being monitored, he was happy for ESC to reassess whether the existing data remained representative. **AFTERNOTE** We continue to monitor Nitrogen Dioxide levels at Stratford St Andrew in three locations. Results for the monitoring can be found on page 10 of the results table Nitrogen Dioxide diffusion tube monitoring results summary for the East Suffolk Council area.pdf . As can be seen levels remain low and well below the health based national objective level of 40µg/m3. Results for 2026 so far show continuing low levels, but this data will not be available publicly until approximately March next year due to a need to bias adjust the annual average for comparison with the air quality objective.		
5.06	**Marlesford PC – I have tried to locate discharge consents for the landscaping of the SPR on the ESC website, and it is not clear to me whether a discharge under Requirement 33 has been granted. If it has been granted, please direct me to the relevant documents, and if it has not, please provide a timescale for its granting.** Cllr Richard Cooper requested an A2 landscaping plan for the SPR. Richard Bull said SZC had a longstanding commitment to landscaping. He was happy to develop an A2 plan. **ACTION:** Develop an A2 landscaping plan for the SPR. ***Please explain whether the security fencing shown to the west of the site on the SPR plans will be constructed using a screening material, and also confirm when boundary planting will be carried out.*** David Seal confirmed that The proposed fencing would provide screening.	DS	
5.07	Responding to Cllr Graeme Watts requested, Richard Knight agreed to provide information on the junction changes associated with OLP, along with a drawing documenting them. **ACTION:** Richard Knight to provide Cllr Graeme Watts with information on the junction changes associated with OLP, along with a drawing documenting them.	RK	

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5.08	Cllr Richard Cooper stated that he awaited clarity on the TRO process for Marlesford. Steve Merry explained that the consultation responses would be sent to Graeme Mateer, and Graeme Mateer, along with Christopher Hudson, would review these and then decide upon the order.		
5.09	Cllr Alexander Nicoll requested that Network Rail provide Melton PC with the blueprint for the Melton level crossing works. Melton PC would then convene a meeting with the parish councils.		
5.10	Cllr Geraldine Barker requested an A3 landscaping plan for the A12/B1119 at Saxmundham.		
6	**Date of Next Meeting**		
6.01	The next meeting would start at 18.00 on Wednesday 2 December at Riverside Centre, Stratford St Andrew Club.		
7	**Close**		
7.01	The meeting closed at 19.45.		