

SIZEWELL PARISHS LIAISON GROUP

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

INTRODUCTION

Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group (SPLG) has compiled a list of community projects submitted by its member Parish & Town Councils. The list is presented in three parts. The first part is concerned with infrastructure and service projects that have an impact across all the councils that surround Sizewell. The second part identifies needs pertinent within a particular council. The third part is concerned with issues that should be addressed when building Sizewell C. The SPLG will present this list as evidence to support their position that a “Social Contract” is required to commit the nuclear industry and government to finance infrastructure and social welfare provision for the local community.

PART ONE: COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES PROJECTS ROAD LINKS.

Problem:-“Increase in road traffic”. There is a pressing need to upgrade sections of the A12, which is already causing major problems for communities on its route through Suffolk. SPLG envisages that there will be an increase in construction traffic to Sizewell; an improvement in local employment and the economy as a direct and indirect consequence of an expansion in the nuclear industry; and a further impact caused by the new sea container terminal at Great Yarmouth. The communities that are particularly vulnerable to traffic are Marlesford, Little Glenham, Glenham, Stratford St. Andrews & Farnham linked together in the south and Yoxford in the north of the Sizewell area.

Solution:-“To alleviate the traffic problem a by-pass should be built around five villages in the south and Yoxford in the north”. SPLG also recognises the long term economic value of improving the road infrastructure in the area and recommends that the cost of construction be shared by EDF, Department of Transport and County Council.

Problem:-“Link route from A12 to Sizewell” The traffic routes from the A12 to Sizewell are through villages on twisting and narrow B roads. Middleton Moor and Theberton are affected on the B1122 (Yoxford to Leiston), and suffer from

speeding traffic, even in 30 mile an hour areas. The B1125 is a “rat run” for Sizewell commuter traffic from Blythburgh village, through the centre of Westleton and part of Middleton. The road is narrow with many blind bends, subject to wandering herds of deer and traffic travelling at speed. Basically, these villages are already blighted by vehicles and poor road conditions. Traffic will increase during the building of Sizewell C and the long term affects of economic development.

Solution:-“A range of possibilities and or/combinations are recommended”

- **Build a new link road from the A12 to Sizewell, avoiding Leiston and Benhall.**
- **Improve and realign the B1122 and B1125 to Sizewell.**
- **Provide a Park & Ride scheme for Sizewell employees north & south of the area.**
- **Impose a car sharing scheme for Sizewell employees.**

RAIL LINKS.

Problem:-“Train services for Sizewell employees” Saxmundham and surrounding villages suffer from a limited rail timetable. There is a train every two hours to Lowestoft and Ipswich. Sizewell employees in particular find the train service impractical as a method of travelling to work. A passenger train link between Saxmundham to Leiston is not available. The same argument about roads applies to rail-improved communication to encourage economic development. Also the train helps environmentally to reduce the carbon footprint.

Solution:-“Let the train take the strain” The following solutions are recommended.

- **To increase the train service the loop line at Beccles will need to be upgraded. Direct train connections to and from London could then be increased, together with a late evening service from Liverpool Street.**
- **The line from Saxmundham to Leiston could carry workers to Sizewell, to ease road traffic.**
- **To encourage greater use of rail transport, particularly at Saxmundham station, there should be an integrated rail/ bus service timetable to service surrounding communities.**
- **The costs of upgrading the passage rail services should be met by Network Rail (Lowestoft line) and EDF (to Sizewell from Saxmundham). The cost of an integrated bus/rail service should be addressed by the County Council, EDF and Government.**

HOUSING.

Problem:-“A shortage of affordable housing for young families” The need for affordable housing is essential to ensure that economic and industrial investment is supported and sustainable. However, the value of private housing in the area is prohibitive, being attractive as a rural location for retirees, second home owners and holiday lettings. Consequently, house prices have seriously affected the attempt by young couples to climb on to the property ladder.

Solution:-“Build more affordable housing” The following recommendations are considered as a way forward to resolve the shortage.

- That EDF spread the location of their specially built accommodation for construction worker around the area. When construction is completed, the housing is then re-allocated at no cost, through a Housing Association, as affordable housing for local families.
- The Local Authority with financial support from the government, in partnership with local communities and a Housing Association, should also embark upon a sizeable affordable housing programme.

EDUCATION & TRAINING.

Problem:-“An underdeveloped local work force” EDF is part of a renaissance in the nuclear industry in the UK and worldwide. However, training provision for the industry tends to be focussed solely on the needs of the Sizewell operation.

Training is not perceived as a preparation for a long term career, which ensures that workers can transfer their skills to other companies and locations throughout the world. Also training in its widest sense should be concerned, not only with technical and scientific needs of the nuclear industry, but the total range of knowledge for all sectors of employment and personal development. Young people and adults who want training find the nearest college campus from the Sizewell area is either at Ipswich or Lowestoft. Transport to these locations is inflexible and infrequent.

Solution:-“Training people for the future-locate a college campus at Sizewell”

- A training college should be established in the area with a rigorous curriculum designed to support all aspects of the nuclear industry and employment skills in general.
- A college partnership at Sizewell should be developed between Suffolk University, Lowestoft College and EDF.

- Such a college should be financed jointly by EDF, the government and County Council.
- Educational work with schools in the locality should continue and be expanded.

HEALTH FACILITIES.

Problem:-“Health services under strain” Health provision in Saxmundham and Leiston is currently under considerable pressure. This is due in part to the needs of an aging population; an expansion of private housing in the area; and 25 miles to the nearest major hospital. With an influx of extra workers during the Sizewell C building stage, an expansion of industrial development, and more new housing in the future, it is necessary to update health provision.

Solution:-“Expand local health care provision”

- The cost of new premises and improved services at the two surgeries should be met jointly by EDF and the Health Service.

BROADBAND

Problem:-“A slow system unable to sustain the needs of new High Tec industries”.

To develop the communication infrastructure for residential employment and encourage new businesses to locate in the area, it is necessary that broadband speed be improved. Currently, the broadband speed is only about 2 in this rural area. An improvement in the speed to 20 (government policy aim) would be more appropriate for efficient work on the super highway.

Solution:-“Upgrade the Broadband speed”

- BT is responsible for upgrading the broadband system in the SPLG area and it is recommended that this investment is shared with EDF. Technically, the increase in broadband speed could be achieved either by fibre optics or a Wi Fi satellite station for village or town in the SPLG area.

PLAY PROVISION FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE.

Problem:-“Underfunding of play provision” Social and educational development is a priority for this age group. Families, who will work in the nuclear industry or other businesses, need housing and in turn need facilities for their children. Play facilities in the area are poor or nonexistent. Local authorities and grant giving bodies do not provide funding for the running of projects.

Solution:-“A community play fund”

- **SPLG proposes that there should be a “ring fenced substantial play scheme fund” provided annually by EDF, where any community in the area can apply for maintenance grant aid.**
- **That EDF provide an annual pool of capital to equip new schemes or renew worn out equipment.**

CONSERVATION

Problem:-“Preservation of the local environment” SPLG is concerned to preserve or enhance the rural environment that surrounds Sizewell. Although the nuclear industry is due to expand, together with associated new industries and services, it should be accountable for the protection of that environment.

Solution:-“Working together”

- **To counteract the problem it is proposed that together EDF, local and national government finance a variety of conservation schemes.**
- **To administer such environmental programmes, a Conservation Committee should be formed to approve funding applications from the local community. Such a committee would consist of representatives from the funding bodies and local community.**

MINSMERE SLUICE & SEA DEFENCES

Problem:-“Rising sea levels” There is a local concern about rising sea levels and the potential flooding of Westleton, Middleton and Theberton. The Minsmere Sluice that keeps the flooding situation under control is overdue for renewal. A future rise in sea levels will overrun the present Sluice, turn the nuclear site into an island and invade the surrounding villages. The Environment Agency appears short of funding to renew the Sluice.

Solution:-“To rectify the problem for the future, funding the new the sluice should be shared by EDF and the Environment Agency”.

CULTURAL & SOCIAL LIFE

Problem:-“Rundown community facilities” Many towns and villages surrounding Sizewell urgently need to refurbish or build community halls or sports pavilions. Existing community buildings do not encourage residents to meet together, to share cultural and sporting activities. Provision tends to be old, cold and fail the environmental test for energy saving in the 21st Century.

Solution:-“A building programme for the future of our communities” The following list demonstrates the local need for provision.

- **Darsham-rebuild wooden village hall. Church roof requires reroofing.**
- **Middleton-new Sports Pavilion on recreation ground.**
- **Theberton & Eastbridge-upgrade village hall.**
- **Kelsale-completion of village hall restoration project.**
- **Saxmundham-new Community Centre.**
- **Leiston-new Community Centre.**

PART TWO: INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL NEEDS.

There is a need to fund problems and programmes within a particular village or town. The following have been identified as examples for consideration by EDF, local authorities and government departments.

BLYTHBURGH. Besides an improvement of the A12 in the village (pedestrian crossing & flashing 30mph speed signs), the need is also to displace the traffic from the Dunwich Road and the improvement of the A12/B1387 junction near Toby's Walk.

THEBERTON & EASTBRIDGE. Without footpaths and with narrow lanes, Eastbridge want to reduce the speed limit to 20 miles per hr.

DARSHAM. Concerned that Darsham would become a short cut for traffic from A12 to Sizewell. A need for traffic calming measures to help alleviate the potential problem.

LEISTON To be added

WESTLETON To be added

SAXMUNDHAM To be added

ANY OTHER SPLG PARISH OR TOWN COUNCIL. To be added

PART THREE: SIZEWELL C BUILDING REQUIREMENTS

SECURITY. SPLG is concerned about three aspects of security at Sizewell. The community require assurance on the following:

- The policing and control of an influx of construction workers into the surrounding area.
- Policy and procedures to avert the possibility of terrorist attack on nuclear power stations.
- Operational safety.

TRANSPORT OF MATERIALS TO SIZEWELL. SPLG want EDF to bring most of its building material to the site by sea and rail.