

# SPLG meeting on Education & Training and Monitoring

Held at 10 Minsmere Rise, Middleton on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2015 at 2.00 pm.

Present: Malcolm Blakeney (Secretary), Edwina Galloway (Kelsale PC), Janie McIntyre (Yoxford PC), Terry Hodgson (Leiston TC) & David Burns (Benhall PC) Guests: Paul Wood, Head of Community & Economic Services SCDC and Kevin Rodger, Policy Manager in Skills Team SCC.

## **SPLG proposal to EDF on young people-education, training & personal development.**

Paul and Kevin emphasised that the planning of a proposal to EDF on Education and Training was a joint enterprise between SCDC & SCC. All the local college Principals' in Suffolk were part of the team developing the needs and how they can be met with EDF. Schools (Primary & Secondary) are an important partner to improve science subjects-maths, engineering, technology & physics. There is the need for a concerted effort to improve local skills and future employment for young people, not only for the nuclear industry but the variety of jobs in the supply chain emanating from the construction of Sizewell C and tourism. Paul & Kevin thought that EDF would back the proposal, in part because it meets their skill requirements. Training courses are required now in preparation for the building programme.

There is a shortage of science teachers and a need to provide in-service training for existing staff.

In response SPLG members were pleased to support science skills development in schools and colleges The SPLG proposal by contrast focused on the role of personal development of young people, concerned with social skills and the improvement of self-esteem. SPLG recognised that social skills played an important part in any work setting. Evidence from the Suffolk Youth Offending Service found that a vital factor in not re-offending was the development of work and social skills. Youth services had declined in recent years where children and young people could meet socially. A particular group of young people may be considered unemployable and so miss out on the work opportunities. For example, many young people in the area need support to improve their literacy & numeracy skills and to learn the discipline of working. It was clear from the meeting that to gain approval from EDF for the SPLG proposal, a positive link between work and the value of personal development schemes would need to be drawn.

SCC was spending £1.5 million (up to £2500 per apprentice) to encourage employers to take young people into an apprenticeship, to provide a frame-work for learning new skills. For those young people with qualifications there will be the opportunity to learn the operational skills and a career path required to run Sizewell C over the next 60 years.

It is anticipated that EDF will commence their Stage 2 Consultation during the first half of 2015 and begin Stage 3 before the end of the year. On that basis one could assume that development Consent Order application may be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate during mid-late 2016, with final approval from the Secretary of State in late 2017 early 2018. It is important to note that this process is subject to a large number of variables, which could significantly distort this potential timeline.

Monitoring proposal. The need for a comprehensive monitoring system during the building phase of Sizewell C is considered important and should be written nearer the time (perhaps at the Stage 3 Consultation?). SPLG emphasised a need for transparency and a concern for safeguarding issues, particularly young people.