

SIZEWELL PARISHES LIAISON GROUP

Chairman's Report, February 2019

Since my appointment as Acting Chair in November 2017, I have attempted to coax back into the fold the two town councils and several parish councils who had opted to allow their memberships to lapse, with a resounding lack of success!

The Transport East Forum (comprising Councils, Local Enterprise Partnerships and Transport Providers in the East of England) declined our request to be allowed to participate. The principal reason given by Sue Roper, SCC Assistant Director for Growth, Highways and Infrastructure, was that while many organisations are keen to be included, representation should be limited to ensure an effective forum. On that basis, all parishes and interest groups were to be excluded. Thus, not for the first time, the SPLG has been omitted from inclusion in what could be seen as an influential body to which we could meaningfully contribute.

SPLG has continued to focus on representing the interests of its member councils, bringing to their notice items of importance as they arise. Such information has also been relayed to the other communities that may be affected by the Sizewell C Build and the two Scottish Power Renewables schemes, in order that everyone is kept abreast of the complete picture.

To these must now be added the potential 'last straw' effects of the projected building programme at Sizewell B and the envisaged expansion of Greater Gabbards, necessitating further shore-based structures, both of which are expected to run concurrent with SZC and the SPR schemes.

The commencement of the Sizewell C Stage 3 Public Consultation will have resulted in a flurry of activity for us all, establishing and assessing the impact of what new or amended proposals are contained therein. While still nowhere near as comprehensive as would by now have been expected in its explanation or coverage of certain aspects, it does show significant change in some others. For example, a begrudging recognition of the need to possibly augment the B1122 as an access route (albeit with a far from satisfactory 'link road' arrangement), and abandonment of the jetty as a means of delivery of materials.

It is sincerely hoped that the 14 local exhibitions staged by EDF, along with the 'shadow' presentations mounted by TEAGs, the B1122AG and MLSG, will have helped to provide sufficient information for a balanced but robust response to be made by each of your parishes by 29th March.

Regrettably I was unable to attend the JLAG Town and Parish meeting in January. But it seems, from reading the notes, that most if not all of the important issues were raised. It is to be hoped that it might encourage SCC and SCDC, even at this late stage, to exhibit constructive co-operation.

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