

Wenhaston with Mellis Hamlet Parish Council

Sizewell C Nuclear Power Station Consultation

We believe that the overarching considerations when planning this development are that the whole area is special and protected landscape of high wildlife and biodiversity value with tourism as its main industry. Anything that damages these qualities must be avoided or mitigated against.

The Parish Council has some initial concerns regarding the process and also some more detailed observations.

Our initial concerns are firstly that we do not have enough detailed information to make really informed judgements and secondly that the local voice from the previous consultations seems to have been overlooked or ignored. It would make a mockery of the word 'Consultation' if the local view was subordinate to the corporate one.

After discussions at the Parish Council and with parishioners, we wish to make the following comments about proposed construction practices, our objections to them and mitigation solutions. We have divided the contentious issues into four sections as follows.

1. The accommodation village for up to 2400 workers proposed for siting at Eastbridge is unrealistic and untenable for the following reasons.

- a. The proposal is on viable arable land and in a Special Landscape Area
- b. The proposal will put an inordinate burden on local infrastructure, roads, healthcare, fire service, police, shops etc.
- c. The proposal will put an inordinate burden and adversely affect the AONB, Heritage Coastline, Minsmere (a Ramsar site) and Dunwich
- d. The proposal will negatively impact on tourism in the area.

Viable Alternative.

Disperse the accommodation around towns and larger villages in the district and leave a legacy of affordable housing as is planned at Hinkley.

2. The B1122 will be the access road to the village and the construction site is a wholly unsuitable arrangement for the following reasons.

- a. This is a heavily contoured, relatively narrow, two lane rural road with speed restrictions and is totally inadequate for the proposed increased volume and size of traffic.
- b. Tourism in the area will be damaged by this greatly increased volume of traffic.
- c. The amenity value of the whole area would be damaged and the lives of the near-by villages of Eastbridge, Theberton and Middleton Moor would be made untenable.

Viable Alternative

Build the relief road to the site, by-passing local villages and removing the need to expand Darsham. Furthermore, move goods at night and bring in aggregates and heavy goods by sea.

3. The proposal will impact on wildlife habitats and this is unacceptable for the following reasons.

- a. The site is on the Heritage Coastline, in the AONB and adjacent to Minsmere, Dunwich Forest and Heath.
- b. Fragile wildlife habitats and corridors will be irreparably damaged because of disturbance by noise, light, pollution, invasion of habitat and dust.
- c. These same factors, along with loss of tranquillity, will result in a subsequent impact on tourism and the employment that goes with it.

- d. Biodiversity of the whole area may be compromised.
- e. There could be an impact on coastal erosion.
- f. The Aldhurst Farm habitat creation will in no way compensate for the loss of wet woodland and fen meadow. The proposed access road will bisect the AONB with the loss of wildlife corridors and damage at its fringes.
- g. With the wildlife impact assessment delayed until the third consultation, we assume that the damage to the biodiversity of the area will be as bad as we believe.

Viable Alternative

The suggestions at 1 and 2 above will go some way towards mitigating these factors, but also far more consideration must be given to other mitigation methods and safeguarding wildlife.

4. Demographic differences, economy and employment.

We believe that the proposals should include plans for skills training and apprenticeships including at the initial and construction stages. Also, far greater emphasis needs to be placed on leaving a sustainable legacy. That is to say leaving an environment for future generations which is at least as good as the one that exists now. Corners cut at this stage will mean quality of life cuts for the future.