

Proposal to EDF Sizewell C

Community Benefit Fund for Young People Paper proposed by SPLG
Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group

INTRODUCTION

The Queen, in her speech on 6th June 2015 in Paris to commemorate the D. Day landings, emphasized that we have a responsibility “To take care of future generations of young people and their needs” We should bear in mind that important responsibility to young people whilst submitting this proposal to EDF.

The education and training needs of local young people are linked to employment opportunities during the building of Sizewell C. Suffolk Coastal District Council and Suffolk County Council (LA's) have collaborated to prepare funding proposals to support STEM (science, technology, engineering & math's) orientated apprentice schemes and curriculum development in schools. The proposal is developed with local colleges and schools. Already the SCC have earmarked £1.5 million to support apprenticeships but this needs to be supported with further finance from EDF. The LA's are also keen that support is required from EDF for a wide range of work skills. SPLG endorses and supports the Local Authority proposals to EDF.

SPLG in turn has identified the social development of young people as a related submission to EDF, which was not the main thrust of the LA's initiative. The SPLG proposal would seek approval from the LA's to include its submission in their package of education and training proposals to EDF.

WHY FINANCE SOCIAL ATTITUDES and SKILLS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?

Negative assumptions are often made that communication and social skills together with positive attitudes are acquired simply by interaction between people. Like parenting it apparently comes naturally, without the need for learning and reflection upon behaviour. Technical skills are task orientated, acquired through book learning and practical work. These skills are clearly assessable, easily identifiable and understandable when applying financial investment to training and education. But this is only part of the picture of a

young person in the work, family and community setting-a bit like the back of the moon that remains unseen.

Social development is considered a process rather than a task, which provides the icing on the employability cake. To function as a balanced human being we need not only technical skills but, in this day and age of the digital world, we require young people to operate effectively in teams; not to discriminate on grounds of race, sexual orientation and disability; take on responsibility for developing ideas and solutions; to clearly communicate their needs; and to grow personally in self-confidence. In other words employers and educationalists in the 21st century presumably seek a rounded individual, not only as a technician but also a person with social qualities; a person who can support the needs other people; and as a citizen contribute to their local community.

WHAT ARE SOCIAL ATTITUDES AND SKILLS WE NEED TO LEARN?

HOW TO:

- Take responsibility for one's own actions.
- Resolve conflict situations.
- Negotiate with individuals, with and between groups.
- Build trusting personal and work relationships
- Listen carefully to the needs others.
- Manage one's own anger or negative behaviour.
- Encourage the personal development others.
- Address and control drug and alcohol addiction.
- Manage one's own time at work.
- Keep oneself safe at work and in the community.
- Engage in managing one's personal and sexual health.
- Develop a positive understanding of cultural diversity, racialism and equal opportunity.
- Administer first aid.

HOW DO YOUNG PEOPLE LEARN AND DEVELOP SOCIAL SKILLS?

Essentially, we should provide young people with opportunities to reflect on how their behaviour affects others and how others perceive them. In part these skills are acquired through giving young people social responsibility and reflecting upon their involvement. In part it is providing experience of community service, especially for the vulnerable of our society. In part it is about training in tutored groups to gain understanding and awareness of the social dynamics between

people. Part it is opening up minds, emotions and practice in the arts and music. Finally, it is the opportunity for young people to meet in a warm and caring social environment, where their relationships can be bonded, with the aid of activities and time to talk with each other.

EVIDENCE OF NEED FOR FUNDING

Economically & Socially Deprived Communities

To what extent is there a need to focus this Proposal on East Suffolk, which is geographically at the centre of the Sizewell C building programme? The main local centres of conurbation are in Leiston and Saxmundham. Some outlying small villages have become expensive retirement or holiday homes. However, there are groups of young people living in larger villages such as Yoxford and small pockets in outlying rural areas. An increase in well paid skilled employment at Sizewell B may in the future attract young families back to the villages. Presently young families tend to gravitate to Leiston or Saxmundham, where rents and housing are cheaper. Both these towns have been described as suffering from economic decline and neglect-a deprived area. The other town within reach of Sizewell is Lowestoft- a town described in a BBC TV report by John Humphries on 26th March 2015, as "In need of infrastructure investment and work for young people", a situation which has been exacerbated by the decline of the fishing industry.

Youth unemployment

In February 2015 the percentage of 16-18 year old young people who were unemployed, described as NEET's (not in education, employment or training), researched by Suffolk Observatory, makes depressing reading. In Saxmundham and Leiston the figure was just over 3%. Surprisingly, in Wickham Market and Snape wards the figure was over 8% and nearly 6% in Aldeburgh. It would appear there is a marked unemployment situation in areas considered to be affluent. The highest unemployment figure was the Kirkley ward in Lowestoft where the figure was 11.3%. for NEET's.

Impact of unemployment

To what extent does unemployment, economic and social problems impact upon the community and the vulnerable lives and behaviour of young people? Young people have had their more than fair share of unemployment in recent

years in East Suffolk. What has been the effects upon young people? The Princes Trust published a research report in May 2014 warning of the relationship between unemployment and mental illness. 2161 16-to-25-year-olds were interviewed and 40% of jobless had faced symptoms of mental illness. The research revealed that long term unemployed young people are more than twice as likely as their peers to have been prescribed anti-depressants; one in three have contemplated suicide; and one in four have self-harmed.

Youth crime and its effect on the community

What are the crime figures amongst young people under 18 years of age in Suffolk and a sample from Leiston? What might be the tentative correlation or impact between long term unemployment, mental health and criminal activity? The Suffolk Youth Offending Service (YOS) is an example of how to engage with young offenders. The YOS approach is to challenge these young people to take responsibility for their behaviour and its effect upon the victim, the family and community; to address issues such as their training and education for the future; and undertake community restitution. Many of these offenders are not in education or employment. In most cases the YOS approach works and only a minority re-offend. The YOS figures for youth crime 2012-2014 show that in Suffolk out of a Grand Total of 1901, 595 (31%) were offences of violence against the person. In Leiston there was a Grand Total of 66 offences of which 15 (23%) were offences of violence against the person and 17 (26%) breaches of a statutory order. The Leiston young people's questionnaire (see next para) Q13 (multiple selection question) about fear or concern about crime, the major factors were drugs (55%), theft & vandalism (54%) each and drunkenness (52%). However, mugging (38%) and sexual assault (29%) clearly indicate concern or fear of violence against the person, which is reflected in the YOS actual crime figures.

Young people and their leisure

In 2011 Leiston Town Council, invited pupils from Alde Valley High School to design and implement a section of a questionnaire on the views and the needs of young people. In total 400 young people were invited to participate and 36% responded. When asked what does Leiston need, 51/% young people wanted more employment and 34% training facilities. Socially they also wanted better leisure facilities; a better youth club and park facilities; and a wider variety of sports and other activities. Social and leisure facilities for young people have, in

recent years, been deprived of funding from the state and local government. Little now remains of a once vibrant statutory Youth Service initiated by the government Albemarle Report in 1960. Youth work now depends upon the voluntary sector for a little sustenance. For example, in 2014 the Blue Bus that provided a valuable mobile service for young people living in outlying villages and Leiston, was axed due to lack of funding. The story of closure repeats itself throughout the region.

Public transport

How do young people in Leiston, Saxmundham or the outlying villages in East Suffolk get to college for training in Ipswich or Lowestoft? Public transport by train or bus is infrequent and for some communities not available in the evenings. A journey from Leiston to Lowestoft College for example first requires a bus to the station at Saxmundham and then train to Lowestoft. This journey can take nearly two hours if the services actually link timetables. Leisure activity is also restricted in the evening because public transport is often not available after 9.00 pm. The Leiston Young People's questionnaire identified their number one important need as a rail link to the main line at Saxmundham.

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- Without the development of skills for local young people over the next 10 years it is more than likely that they will not benefit from the highly technical and service job opportunities engendered by the building of Sizewell C. Rather, some may acquire short term unskilled work, particularly NEED's, whilst young skilled workers from other regions will be drafted in to Sizewell C. Although the focus for jobs is upon the next ten years the implications are for the development of a skilled local community for the next 60 years .For example the long term figures for children and young people under 15 in 2013 was 16.93% living in Leiston and 18.35% in Saxmundham, out of a total population for those towns.
- Therefore it is essential to invest in technical and social education now, before building commences, so that young people acquire necessary skills for employment during the construction and operational phase of Sizewell C. This also applies to wider employment with ancillary employers which will benefit the local labour market.
- SPLG considers it is essential to provide funding for the social development of young people. Basically, such financial support will not only benefit the

personal growth of young people but also employers and the local community. Employers such as EDF and contactors will find they have local young people willing to learn, who have a positive attitude towards their managers and workers. The community will benefit from a reduction in anti-social behaviour and a young person's willingness to participate, in the long term, with some form of service to their town or village.

- There is an urgent need to review public transport to enable young people to attend college and participate in a wider social life.

SPLG PROPOSAL TO EDF

AIM

“A Community Benefit Fund to support the social development of all Young People (including those with special needs) living in the area around Sizewell C”

OBJECTIVES

1. To provide individual grants to young people for their education and training in social develop programmes sponsored locally, nationally or internationally.
2. To grant aid charitable community projects of cultural and social recreation.
3. To grant aid residential and day training courses in social development.

FUNDING

To provide an initial start-up investment fund of £500,000 and an annual grant of £150,000 from EDF for the duration of the Sizewell C building programme.

MANAGEMENT OF FUND

1. A committee to administer the Fund, including receipt of grant applications and decide upon awards.
2. Committee to meet quarterly to receive and make awards.
3. Committee membership representatives to include: Suffolk Coastal DC, Suffolk County Council, Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group, Police & EDF.
4. Committee to appoint its own Chairperson and Secretary.
5. Administrative costs related to the initiate down payment to include:
 - Chairperson's expenses.
 - Secretary part-time paid and expenses.
 - Telephone, computer, postage stamps, stationary, travel, hire of meeting room and insurance.
 - Newspaper and magazine advertising.

- Project monthly newsletter.
- Communications via a website and social media.
- Investment of funds to produce annual dividend interest.

BUDGET PREDICTIONS

Capital Fund £500,000

Investments to cover for inflation and extra costs: £250,000

Administration costs as identified above £25000 per annum x 10 years: £250,000

Annual income grant £150,000

- Grants to individuals: 100 grants of £500=£50,000
- Grants to charitable community projects: 10 grants of £7000=£70,000.
- Sponsorship of Training programmes: 4 sponsorships of £5000=£20,000.

Note: A degree of financial flexibility within the annual budget, in awarding grants, would be needed to meet specific needs that may arise.

Proposal prepared for consideration of SPLG on 7th May 2015 by

Malcolm D. Blakeney MA
Secretary
Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group.