

Joint meeting of Suffolk Coastal Town and Parish Councils

Held in the Village Hall Middleton on 11th March 2009

Present: **Middleton** – Jane Etheridge- M D Blakeney- S Robinson- Bob Perrett- Trevor Tate
Benhall & Sternfield – David Burns
Farnham – Jennifer Thorsen - Jeanne Harrison - Gordon Gilbert
Saxmundham – Marian Andrews
Darsham – Roger Coates Smith
Leiston – Terry Hodgson
Westleton- P Holmes
Theberton & Eastbridge – Jon Swallow
Kelsale – Tony Cox

Apologies Rae Leighton SCC – Barry Slater SCDC – Aldringham PC – Peter Batho – Roy Dowding

Chairman of Middleton Parish Council Jane Etheridge welcomed everyone

- 1 The minutes of the meeting held at Middleton on the 28th January were approved and confirmed.
- 2 Matters arising – There were none
- 3 Malcolm Blakeney took the chair and asked the representatives for the first reactions of their Councils to the setting up of this group and the major issues for concern in future.
Darsham – Good – Infrastructure – Roads – Educational links with Leiston High School
Leiston – Very Happy – Do not believe a new major road would be of benefit but would like road improvements to existing routes.
Saxmundham – Good – Do not like the idea of a new road but realize that some of the small villages (like Thebeton) will have a problem
Westleton – Good – Education and Health
Kelsale – Good – Shared funding – Bridge important initiative.
Farnham – Good –Have been fighting for a by pass for many years.
Further comments and suggestions brought up – There has been no final decision regarding the construction of another reactor but we should be prepared with a wish list and clear aims before negotiations start.
The single railway track should be upgraded to double track – an ideal opportunity to upgrade the East Suffolk line.
We require major benefits -a social contract between the government- nuclear company- local authorities. Sizewell will not fund all the requirements – health needs government funding supported by us all.
Saxmundham is classified as a deprived area and needs special funding.
A concerted effort from all parts of the community to sort out health issues particularly with an influx of workers and their families – a need to improve facilities and identify requirements.
Sellafield Cumbria – District authorities got their act together with the government – designated deprived areas and signed a social contract as a basis for developing their communities.
When Sizewell was built there was no liaison with local authorities.

Constitution.

It is important that the group has a constitution to enable it to obtain funding and sustain close communication with Sizewell.

Name: a number of names for the group were put forward –East Suffolk Parishes Liaison Group (ESPLG) had support but members are going back to their parishes to discuss.

Aims: To act as a coordinating group – to encourage investment by government and EDF in local infrastructure. Objectives: Transport (Road –Rail –Sea) – Education – Health – Housing – Security – Conservation – preservation of rural identity – welfare.

All representatives will discuss with their parishes their own priorities and report their views back to the group

It was agreed to have a small steering group made up of members of different parishes to negotiate the wishes of the liaison group.

Funding for the work of the Joint Parishes/Town Councils may be available from SCC Councillors Locality Budget-members requested to enquire from their County Councillor.

Officers: members to put forward to Trevor Tate, before or during the next meeting, their nominations for Chairman – Secretary – Treasurer.

Many thanks to Margaret Blakeney for organising the refreshments.

Date of Next meeting Monday 27th April 2009 Middleton Village Hall 7.30

