

Pre-meeting Reports
4th November 2014

122. Police Report. The Chairman welcomed PCSO Jason Cowles, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave members a brief report on the crime statistics for October (attached). He explained that there was a problem with speeding in KGA which would be addressed further and initiatives were underway to try and regulate parking outside of the schools better at dropping off and picking up times. He read a press release with regard to that mornings excitement in the town whereby helicopters and the armed response team had been deployed albeit for possibly an erroneous report.

123. Mr Tom McGarry. Mr Tom McGarry from EDF gave the meeting a thorough update on where the Nuclear New Build project at Sizewell currently stood. He outlined the main points thus;

He hoped that members had received the newsletter which covered most of what he had to say. He explained that since the September meeting the Hinkley Point C deal had been approved by the European Commission, thereby confirming that the contract for difference did not break any State Aid rules. However there is still a lot of work to do to progress the Financial Investment Decision such as finalising contracts with potential investors. Work was still continuing on Sizewell C but he explained that everything had to be in place for Hinckley Point C before the Stage 2 Consultation was launched, probably now in early 2015.

You may have noted the reference to the Habitats Regulations Assessment Evidence Plan in the newsletter. This is a planning process document that helps ensure that key environmental impacts are recognised earlier in the design process of future large-scale development, making it easier to incorporate effective environmental safeguards. Evidence Plans are available for use by applicants of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) in England, in agreement with the relevant statutory nature conservation bodies (SNCB). The first terrestrial Evidence Plan, drawn up by EDF Energy in consultation with relevant governmental and non-government bodies, and approved by Natural England, sets out the information that the company will gather to inform a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) of its proposed Sizewell C power station.

The Sizewell C Evidence Plan:

- Identifies the potential environmental effects of Sizewell C on European protected sites;
- Is designed to ensure that evidence gathering targets areas of potential effects;
- Describes the types and nature of evidence that need to be provided;
- Sets an indicative programme of workshops with technical stakeholders for more detailed consideration of evidence requirements and impact assessment methods;
- Defines the roles, responsibilities and working arrangements of EDF Energy and participating technical stakeholders; and
- Sets out an approach for in-combination assessment to consider the effects of Sizewell C in combination with other plans and projects.

The Evidence Plan process for Sizewell C will end when EDF Energy submits its application for a Development Consent Order to the Planning Inspectorate and its applications for operational-phase Environmental Permits to the Environment Agency.

Following the recent article in the EADT, I would like to remind councillors that EDF Energy is committed to the full restoration of Upper Abbey Farm House. We continue to engage with the local authority regarding the phasing of works and I will continue to keep the council informed on progress. As you know, we now need to keep the building protected for the winter months and look forward to revisiting the restoration works in 2015, mindful of our planning obligations.

He had attended the Our Place meeting at URC on 16 October where it had been good to meet with a number of local people and service providers.

He responded to a question arising on Habitat Creation from the newsletter by explaining that EDF are creating a scheme to compensate for 'potential' future loss of designated features from Sizewell Marshes Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) at Goodram's Fen, which would arise should Sizewell C be consented and constructed. The designated features to be compensated for by the wetland habitat include reedbed and lowland ditch habitat, and their associated invertebrate and vascular plant assemblages

The Scheme is to be developed separately and in advance of Sizewell C in order to create the new wetland habitat prior to any potential land-take from the SSSI. As such, the habitats would be created by EDF Energy 'at risk', even if Sizewell C does not proceed. The habitats will be managed as part of the wider Sizewell Estate (which includes the Sizewell Marshes SSSI).

Not only will the scheme provide new wetland habitat, on what is currently just arable farmland. It is also proposed that the wider area is landscaped for biodiversity enhancement, and public recreational access and use - the latter in particular will be provided in an area close to Leiston (between the town and Lovers Lane) and comprise some 20ha +.

There was a question on the Statement of Community Consultation which he reassured the meeting would be more than 6 weeks. He would find out a bit more about Ash Wood Cottages for next time and he confirmed that marine boring had not yet started. Cllr Ginger made an impassioned plea for Bridleway 19 to remain open during construction – possibly by use of tunnels where needed – although Mr McGarry pointed out that it would still be through a construction site with the health, safety and security implications that that threw up. Mr Briggs raised the problem of the sewage works and Mrs Girling pointed out that a wildlife corridor would be needed from the existing SSSI to the new habitat that might be created.

124. **County Council.** Cllr Smith informed the meeting that he had attended a recent meeting of the Long Shop trustees and also the Final Fling. He had been pleased to see the progress being made at the Flagship's hostel on the High Street at an open day where they showed off the bicycle repair business they had set up and he congratulated everyone on a successful Royal Visit to the Film Theatre. He further reported that Bright Tribe were now in the final stages of negotiations with the Department for Education to achieve Academy Status for Alde Valley High School. Mrs Lovell hoped that the flooding problem in Sizewell Hall Road could stay on the County Agenda. Cllr Smith reported that a permanent solution to the problem was being designed and costed and funding would be looked at once this had been completed. Cllr Hodgson asked that the County Council formulate and submit an expression of interest in the Government's Cycling Delivery Plan. Cllr Smith reported that his officers were currently looking at this.
125. **District Council.** Cllr Cooper informed the meeting that it would need a full council decision, led from cabinet, for the District policy on naming roads after significant residents to be implemented. He asked that individuals who wished

to see this happen write to the Cllr Herring. Cllr Howard voiced his concerns over the cost and need for SCDC to build new offices.

126. Public. Mr Briggs reported that the proposed power station in Carr Avenue would have to have its decision delayed as the company had not yet sent the promised letters to all the residents affected to make them aware of the proposal. Mr Jackman-Graham reported his dissatisfaction with EE mobile phone company who had recently turned a cell off (to save money) which had reduced the signal in the town to an unacceptable level. He wished for the County Council to be aware of this and put pressure on if possible. Mrs Bloomfield gave comment on the Neighbourhood Plan with firm support for another supermarket to be included in the Town Centre development.

127. Film Theatre Support Club. Many residents were in attendance to witness the Chairman of the Film Theatre Support Club hand over a cheque to the Council for £8,315.72p which would cover the final two instalments of the loan taken out to purchase the new 3D Digital Projector in 2010. The projector was bought for £75,000 with an initial deposit of £10,000 from the club along with £25,000 from the Council. The club has, since then, paid each instalment of the £40,000 loan taken out by the Council with this cheque representing the final two instalments. Mrs Hill went on to thank Wayne and Theatre team for all their hard work in making the centenary year such a special one. Cllr Cooper accepted the cheque and reiterated the sentiment and thanks expressed during the Duke of Gloucester's visit for the Clubs' work over many many years to keep the venue open.

During the above discussions, the time reaching 7.30pm, it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Hodgson, and agreed, that standing orders be suspended to allow the public part of the meeting to be completed.

**At a meeting of the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL
held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, on TUESDAY,
4th November 2014 at 8.12 p.m.**

PRESENT

Councillor A. M. Cooper (in the chair)
Councillor D. Bailey
Councillor R. Bailey
Councillor D. Boast
Councillor R. Geater
Councillor Mrs S. M. Geater
Councillor C. S. Ginger
Councillor T. E. Hodgson
Councillor W. H. Howard
Councillor Mrs A.V. Nunn
Councillor J Sparrow

128. **Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 7th October 2014 be signed as a true record.

129. **Apologies.** There were apologies from Cllr Nunn, Cllr Parker, Cllr Last and Cllr Hawkins.

- 130. Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman reported that he had attended two civic events at Bury St Edmunds, Final Fling at the Long Shop and was pleased to have greeted the Duke of Gloucester when he visited the Film Theatre.
- 131. Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Howard as a member of TASK and CANE and RBL. Cllr Cooper in all planning matters. Cllr Ginger in 14b and 14c and Cllr R Bailey in 11.
- 132. Sizewell C.** Members discussed Mr McGarry's presentation and how they felt EDF could help mitigate for the huge upheaval and disruption the project would cause in the Parish should it go ahead. They noted discussions that had taken place with SCDC and County some 5 years ago and, more recently, a meeting of the Council that had looked at this issue in 2012. There were many issues to discuss as the situation became clearer so members decided that they should have another, separate, meeting to fine tune the earlier decisions.
- 133. SALC AGM** Members noted the 3 motions that would be voted upon at the forthcoming SALC AGM to be taken forward to NALC. There was support for the one lobbying for better S106 payments to ensure that the true cost of developments to the community was covered. Support for the one lobbying to remove reference to automatic precept referendums for local councils but no real support for regulating the inclusion of broadband fibre optics into new builds as members thought that technology changed so quickly that this may be counter productive.
- 134. Sizewell Emergency Arrangements.** Members discussed whether they thought it would be useful or not to accept Mr Skelcher's invitation for him to come and give members his views on the Sizewell Emergency Arrangements. It was agreed that Mr Skelcher should be invited but with a strict 10minute talk time and 10 minutes for questions. Proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed.
- 135. Our Place.** The Clerk gave a brief report on the Our Place meeting that had taken place in October and drew members' attention to the report on the table from Cllr Ginger who had been able to attend the first part of the meeting. The Clerk summarised a report from Mr Betson which explained the correlation between the Our Place programme and the potential "Leiston Forward" initiative which he was pursuing. There was some concern that the programme should be very careful not to break the statutory links with the principal authorities and that the relationship with Leiston Forward be such that they work with the Council and not seek to impinge on any of the Council activities. It was still unclear what might come from the programme but the meeting had been very positive and had decided upon Education, particularly for 16-19 yr group and Elderly Care as the two priorities they would focus on.
- 136. Meeting with SCS of 15th October.** Members noted the minutes from the recent meeting with SCS.
- 137. Haylings Pond.** Cllr Parker (in his absence) thought it would be good to change and improve the signage at Haylings Pond to indicate the Town's ownership of the estate. Members would give some thought to this for December.

138. Neuve Chapelle. Members noted the letter from Mr Peskett informing them of the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Neuve Chapelle which took place 10-13 March 1915. "H" Company of 4th Battalion Suffolk Regiment, who took part in the battle, came from Leiston and the surrounding area. 18 personnel lost their lives in the battle. It was agreed to sponsor a Civic Parade and Service to mark the Anniversary on the 8th March 2015. It was also suggested that an attempt might be made to get representation from the Lahore Division, Indian Corps to come as 4th Battalion were part of the Jullundur Brigade of that Corps.

139. Newsletter. Members discussed the way the newsletter was put together and agreed that a calendar of meetings and a timetable for issue of the magazine should be produced for next year.

140. Finance.

a) **Accounts for payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ron Bailey and agreed that accounts presented in the sum £27,448.18p along with £10,960.25p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.

b) **Living Wage.** Members discussed the proposition of whether, as a Council, to adopt the policy of paying a living wage rather than the minimum wage for affected employees. It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed that Leiston Town Council adopts the Living Wage standard set by Loughborough University. This is currently £7.85p an hour. Cllr Boast voted against.

c) **Salaries and Wages review.** Members noted the report and recommendations from the Personnel Committee and, accommodating the previous vote, on a proposition from Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Mrs Nunn, it was agreed to increase salaries and wages by 2% from 1st November 2014. Those employees below the living wage would be increased to £7.85p an hour.

The meeting took a break from 8.20 – 8.50pm for refreshment

141. Planning.

a) **DC14/3122/FUL – Change of use from A1 to A3, 11 High Street, Leiston.** The Clerk was asked to clarify if take away was being considered and, if so, a suitable bin be installed nearby by the applicant. Cllr Cooper abstained. Cllr Ron Bailey and Cllr Boast against.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

b) **Neighbourhood Plan.** The Clerk updated members on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan and discussed the summary of comments received during the current consultation. These would be examined and responded to by the Planning volunteer groups on 6th November and a way ahead established.

142. County Matters

a) **Highways** The junction of Kings Road with Aldeburgh Road was getting worse. The footpath to Old Abbey needed the vegetation cleared off it as did the footway from Crown Farm to Sandy Lane. The road surface in Heath view was being cut up by scooters and skateboards and there was still concern about a dead tree in the undergrowth beside Red House Lane.

143. District Matters.

a) **Management meeting held on Sizewell Beach 23rd October.** Members noted the report from the meeting held on the beach on 23rd October. Cllr

Boast was added to the apologies.

144. Correspondence.

- a) **Suffolk Accident Rescue Service.** Members noted the request for a grant from SARS and, on a proposition from Cllr Ron Bailey, seconded by Cllr Mrs Nunn, it was agreed to donate £100 again this year.
- b) **Leiston Leisure Centre.** Members noted the request from the Leiston Leisure Centre to help them with the purchase of a new set of equipment for Boccia sessions starting in January. On a proposition from Cllr Boast, seconded by Cllr Howard it was agreed to donate £115 for the equipment and a target mat.
- c) **Christmas Fair.** Members noted the request from the Long Shop for help in purchasing presents for the children for this years Christmas Fair. The Co-op has been very generous in the past but had declined to provide the presents this year. George East had contributed £200 and, on a proposition from Cllr Boast, seconded by Cllr Ron bailey, it was agreed to donate £100 toward the presents for 6th December.
- d) **Homeguard and LTAA.** Members noted the letter from the Homeguard Club seeking assistance in trying to find a solution to the problem that occurs with bus parking during football matches at the LTAA. Cllr Cooper explained that he had asked the MOD for use of the TA compound for matches but had to await the answer as, being an MOD site, it was subject to various security issues which needed to be resolved before this could happen.
- e) **Allotment Holders Association.** Members noted the e-mail from Mrs Lovell and undertook to have a meeting with the Association at 7.30pm on Thursday 27th November. They further agreed to sponsor a suitable cup or plaque for a best allotment competition to be held next year and to put a dog bin on the footpath behind Charles Adams Close. The request for a noticeboard was deferred to get some recommendations of the required size.

145. Questions to the Chairman.

- a) **Cllr Howard** asked that the Boules court be progressed now that the other work on the recreation ground had been completed and also asked for an update on the defibrillators and Highbury Cottages.
- b) **Film Theatre Support Club.** The Chairman was asked to write and thank the Film Theatre Support Club for their fantastic donation and their continued support.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 9.50 pm.

Chair -----

Dated -----