

Pre-meeting Reports
1st September 2015

64. Police Report. The Chairman welcomed Sgt Mark Beresford who gave a brief summary of the crime figures for August and also presented the response times for the year to date from April. It appeared that the figures for Leiston, Saxmundham, Framlingham and Aldeburgh were poor and also slightly below other rural areas in Suffolk. Cllr Levermore highlighted once more the anti-social and illegal parking that occurred around the Spar shop at the end of Kings Road and also the other illegal parking and parking on pavements that went on around the town. Sgt Beresford encouraged residents to report this activity (with Reg Nos) and hoped they would use the SNT forum to bring this forward if they wanted it to be a priority.
65. Mr Tom McGarry. Mr McGarry gave an overview of the current state of play regarding Nuclear New Build thus;
“Since my last update a delegation of Town Councillors visited Sizewell B. We were honoured to host our local representatives and thank you for joining us.

Overall Sizewell C Update

EDF Energy and the UK Government have made good progress on finalising the agreements which will enable a final investment decision on Hinkley Point C in the coming months. Once we have done this, we can start building Hinkley Point C.

We will also announce further details regarding the next stage of public consultation for Sizewell C around this time.

We are currently active in the local area and continue to undertake technical assessments and environmental surveys which will inform the plans we will present at the next stage of public consultation.

Completed this year to inform Stage 2 proposals

- Traffic studies – which will help us to understand the actual effect rather than the perceived impact of additional traffic during the construction of Sizewell C. This in turn will allow us to consult on reasonable, appropriate and relevant mitigation.
- Offshore ground investigations
- Onshore ground investigations
- Coastal processes
- Ecology surveys
- Public Rights of Way surveys
- Ground water monitoring
- Environmental studies
- Design and engineering studies
- Associated Development site technical assessments

Upper Abbey Farmhouse

- The works are now back underway on site with Morgan Sindall.
- They have their site accommodation and welfare established, the new scaffold has been installed around the site and also within the basements of the buildings, ready for removal of the ground floors. The soft strip is commencing to remove all remaining structure and plaster from the burnt out unit.
- A new Neighbour Newsletter will be issued shortly that will include the site landline contact details for the contractor on site.

The project is on course to be completed in the first half of next year.

Aldhurst Farm

- Environmental experts have been given a preview of a new wetland habitat under development by EDF Energy in Leiston.
 - The Environment Agency, Natural England, the Internal Drainage Board, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Wildlife Trust took part in a workshop with the project leaders and were given a tour of a trial excavation of one of the new wetland basins under construction. Trial excavation work is vital as it helps the project team determine the best way to carry out the work across the wider site.
 - The group walked the site, examined the soil, saw the dewatering process take place and experienced for themselves how the proposed work across the 67 hectare site will be carried out.
 - The EADT covered it as well as BBC Radio Suffolk
 - Soon the soil spreading across the site will take place
- Completion of this first phase of works (earth movement and the planting of 140,000 reed beds) is running to schedule and we are pleased with progress. The new habitat will benefit a variety of wildlife including water voles, otters, eels, amphibians, reptiles and birds as well as rare plants.

EDF Sponsoring Suffolk Skills show

- EDF Energy is proud to support the Suffolk Skills Show again this year being held on 21 October at Trinity Park. Events like this are vital as EDF Energy wants to engage students in the STEM subjects and to provide information on the possible career paths that the energy industry has to offer.
- Our STEM Ambassadors and apprentices from Sizewell B are looking forward to meeting students from across Suffolk and our Sizewell C project team will be available to talk about the jobs and skills opportunities a new power station in Suffolk would create.
- Emma Laflin to update you next month on her recent visit to Bridgewater College....

Parish Emailer

- We have felt for a while that parishes may appreciate a more regular update than the printed newsletter, so we have started emailing clerks on a monthly basis to keep you regularly in the loop.
- We are also meeting a number of parishes. It is important we do that as all parishes have their distinct character, issues and interests. It is our responsibility to do this – an integral part of robust consultation.

Newsletter

The Sizewell C newsletter (printed version) will go out to 39,000 local residents and businesses over the course of the next few days.

Cllr Howard asked whether EDF had contributed to the D2 study. Mr McGarry said they had not. He explained how the technical workshops being carried on with Council officers were confidential whilst the reports remained unfinished or in draft and, therefore, Councillors at JLAG were asked to respect this when they were given access. Cllr Taylor asked about transport studies but Mr McGarry was

unable to tell him what information had been shared with Councils as we was not privy to that. Cllr Taylor informed Tom McGarry that, the report he had read from the Flamanville trip which was going to the SCDC Task Group contained some inaccuracies. Mrs Girling asked a general question about the D2 and the wider transport links.

66. County Council. Cllr Richard Smith reported that he had attended the 70th commemoration of VJ Day in the Long Shop on 15th August and had found it very moving. He was pleased to have been at the official opening of the Waste to Energy plant at Gt Blakenham which was now producing energy for 30,000 homes from waste that would have otherwise gone to landfill. He reported other activities which included accompanying Cllr Noble on his recent visit to Leiston, a trip to Cumbria as a representative on NULEAF (a local government organisation advising on legacy waste from the Nuclear Industry.) and his trip to Flamanville. He then explained that the County and Districts were currently collaborating on a paper to go to (and requested by) Government which detailed the powers that they would be prepared to take from government in the future. He agreed with members that these should be accompanied by the funding which would allow those powers to be devolved and exercised effectively otherwise it wouldn't happen.
67. District Council. Cllr Ian Pratt gave his apologies and Cllr Cooper had little to report. Cllr Taylor pointed out the inaccuracies in the Flamanville report again. Cllr Cooper noted them and Mr McGarry asked Cllr Taylor to e-mail him the errors so he could see if they were something EDF could help with.

During the above discussions, the time reaching 7.30pm, it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Cooper, 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, 1st SEPTEMBER 2015 at 7.55 p.m.**

PRESENT

**Councillor D. E. Bailey
Councillor D. Boast
Councillor A. M. Cooper
Councillor C. Ginger
Councillor P. Harle
Councillor L. Hill
Councillor T.E. Hodgson
Councillor W.M. Howard
Councillor H. Jackson
Councillor J. Last
Councillor S. Levermore
Councillor C. Nichols
Councillor M.J. Taylor**

68. **Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Hodgson, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 4th August 2015 be signed as a true record.

- 69. Apologies.** There were apologies from Cllr Mrs Geater and Cllr Morsley.
- 70. Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman reported that he had attended the VJ commemoration and remembrance service by the Flag in the Long Shop and had been honoured to lay a wreath in memory of all those who had not returned. He thanked Cllr Hill for representing the Council at the Leiston Allotment Holders and Gardeners Annual Show and Cllr Hill reported that she had enjoyed the show and had been very pleased to award the Town Council's award for Best Allotment to Mr David Brown. He reported that several members had enjoyed an informative and thorough tour of the Sizewell B facility and thanked EDF for hosting them. He congratulated Wayne and Hannah on being nominated for their category in the Cinema Industries Screen Awards and said how proud he was of them. He also congratulated Mrs Ann Davis on achieving another excellent report from the Food Hygiene Inspector.
- 71. Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Bailey and Cllr Harle in letter from LOFO. Cllr Cooper in items 9 and 13, Cllr Hill in item 12b. Cllr Howard and Cllr Taylor as members of TASC and CANE. Cllr Ginger in items 12b and 13a.
- 72. D2 Link Road.** The Chairman invited Cllr Smith to join the meeting who talked through the report he had submitted on the work that had been done to date on the D2 link road proposal for Nuclear New Build. He pointed out Mr McGarry's earlier reference to any project like this needing to provide mitigation that was reasonable, appropriate and relevant. He hoped that the work that had already been done might help show that the project complied with these criteria once Stage 2 began and the details, needed to allow the study to gain relevance, became available (if indeed they did). Members had concerns about the impact on the Abbey, the possible problems with the junction at Abbey Road and the funding. Cllr Howard asked Cllr Smith to find out how much the study, to date, had cost and Cllr Taylor pointed out some inaccuracies in the report. He also made reference to the Layfield enquiry (for Sizewell B) which had some relevant points which might still be extant and, 22 years ago, were instrumental in the project being rejected. Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Jackson proposed that the whole subject be left until stage 2 but this was defeated and, a proposition from Cllr Hill that the D2 be put forward as an option to be pursued by both District and County Councils, when considering Sizewell C transport issues in the future was, instead, agreed. (7 for, 3 against [including Cllr Howard])
- 73. Members Connectivity.** Members noted the Clerk's report which explained how Leiston Town Council, for many years, had provided connection, equipment and training, where necessary, to ensure all members were able to get on line and connected. This was to ensure that there was no barrier to any resident being able to become a Councillor through circumstances or lack of ICT skills. On a proposition from Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Hodgson it was unanimously agreed to continue that policy. Cllr Last sought and gained assurance that this also included problem solving and technical assistance as the online environment can sometimes be very unforgiving.
- 74. Pumptrack.** Members considered the current situation whereby they had been let down by their chosen contractor (due to ill health) and were now considering new quotes. One of the original companies invited to tender was now in a position to do so and had provided a quote which was comparable in many respects to the cancelled contract. The specifications were higher and the size

was slightly bigger but the sub soil would need to be sourced locally. The track would cost £26,500 and the additional tarmac on the berms and start hill would cost £9,200. £25,000 had been sourced from the SCDC Playspace fund already and there was the option to apply for the extra to ensure that the berms were more robust and needed less maintenance in the future by being tarmac. In addition the firm, BMXtrackbuilding, were currently in a position to complete the work this year which was a bonus as, having been let down three times now, it was probable that we would have to wait until next May to get something in place. Members were pleased with the credentials and estimate tendered by BMX Trackbuilding so, on a proposition from Cllr Nicholls, seconded by Cllr Cooper, it was agreed to award the contract at a cost of £35,700.

- 75. Bus Route 64/65.** Members noted the reply from First buses but were not impressed with the rather weak undertaking to look at adjusting the timetables to co-ordinate effectively with the trains at Saxmundham. The Clerk was asked to write back and encourage them to really look at this issue and work with us to get something useful and workable in place. He was also asked to request that County install real time information at the Main Street stop in Leiston.
- 76. CYDS.** Members noted the report from Cllr Cooper on the efforts CYDS were currently making to get funding and asked him what the timescales were for the major HLF grant application to be assessed and the results known. This was likely to be three months. CYDS currently had just under three months funding and members discussed possibly servicing their rent of £900 a month until they were able to look at whether to put anything into the precept for future support of the organisation. It was also reported that a business plan was being worked on by officers at Suffolk Coastal to try and help take CYDS forward too. Cllr Taylor felt that, with the County Council withdrawing their funding (£30,000 a year) CYDS were now unable or struggling very hard to provide the service it was set up for. Members hoped that the funding applications bore fruit but in the meantime, on a proposition from Cllr Hodgson, seconded by Cllr Howard it was agreed to award CYDS £2,700 grant aid to cover three months rent.

During the above item, Cllr Cooper declared an interest and left the room after answering questions from members on his report.

- 77. Meeting with SCS Norse.** Members noted the report from the recent meeting with SCS Norse and the other items included. Cllr Taylor felt that we still hadn't established what standard we should expect Norse to operate to and what we should expect as a Town under current legislation. He asked Cllr Cooper to see if he could find this information out. The Clerk was also asked to request that the bus shelters and some signage be cleaned.
- 78. Allotment Walkround.** Members noted the short report on the table and asked that the Clerk action the outstanding points picked up on the walkround from last year.
- 79. Finance and Personnel.**
- a) Accounts for payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that accounts presented in the sum £34,611.02p along with £15690.76p, paid since the last meeting, be approved for payment.
- b) Business Report from Film Theatre.** Members noted the report from an independent business advisor (which was a highly discounted service offered

by the Cinema Exhibitors Association) and asked that its findings be looked at by the Theatre Committee.

- c) **Christmas Lights.** Members noted the request for financial assistance in purchasing more Christmas Lights for the town. The Leiston Business Association had done an excellent job since taking over the Lights and members were very pleased to be able to release £2,500 from the earmarked reserve for Christmas Lights to help them extend and consolidate the display. This was proposed by Cllr Levermore and seconded by Cllr Nichols.

The meeting took a break from 9.05pm – 9.20pm

80. Planning.

- a) **DC152817/FUL – Proposed semi-detached dwelling comprising of 1 No. 3bedroom dwelling and 1 No.2 bedroom dwelling at 27A Heath View, Leiston.** Members were very concerned about the parking problems in that vicinity and felt that this proposal would exacerbate the loss of amenity that neighbouring properties will experience. They also considered it to be an inappropriate fill in as the estate was clearly designed with these green areas on the corners for residents' amenity (and visibility as you traverse the corner). The two properties are very small for what the developer insists are family homes where one property, appropriately positioned, might just be acceptable. If this did go ahead though the 2 parking spaces in front 27, the two in front of the new 3 bed must be a planning condition and laid out correctly.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

- b) **DC152990/ARM – submission of details of dwelling approved under outline planning permission DC14/3754/OUT – on land between 28 and 38 Prospect Place, /Leiston.** Members had no comment apart from suggesting other hardstanding parking be incorporated into the scheme.

NO COMMENT

- c) **DC15/3024/VOC – Variation of condition 7 of planning consent DC/14/1007/FUL (Smiths Bakers) to extend hours of opening from Mon-Sat 0800-1900 to Mon-Sat 0800-2300. 69 High Street Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- d) **DC15//3335/ADI Re: Illuminated advertisement consent – replacement of existing signs, Co-op supermarket, Sizewell Road, Leiston.** (Cllr Ginger declared an interest)

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- e) **DC15/15/3411/DRC - Discharge of condition nos 19, 20, 21 and 24 of Galloper Wind Farm development consent order at the Substation and part of adjacent land, Sizewell Gap Road, Leiston.** Cllr Taylor asked that, at the forthcoming public exhibition to update everyone on this project, the effect of the development on Rosary Cottage be looked at.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- f) **Neighbourhood Plan.** The Clerk reported that the public meeting and the days exhibition at the Co-op had both been encouragingly positive with residents virtually all supporting the efforts to regenerate the Town Centre. Many were pleased to see the housing allocations and there were lots of enquiries on the allocation of socially rented properties that might come

forward from the projects. The Statutory bodies were slowly returning comments which might mean some revisions but, overall, the Plan is looking good

81. County Matters. Nothing raised.

82. District Matters. Cllr Taylor commented that he was very disappointed there was no public consultation on SCDC's plans to amalgamate more closely with Waveney District Council. (as announced in the press). He also asked Cllr Cooper to enquire about the decision to reduce the number of SCARABS to two from three.

83. Correspondence.

- a) **LOFO.** Members were very pleased to support a proposition from Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Levermore, that LOFO be awarded £200 toward this year's outing. They wished them success and confirmed that the Council would, like last year, cover the insurance.

During the above item Cllr Bailey declared an interest and left the room. Cllr Hill took the Chair.

84. Questions to the Chairman.

- a) **Letters of thanks.** Cllr Cooper asked the Chairman to send congratulations to Wayne and Hannah on their being nominated for the Screen Awards and Cllr Hill asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Ann Davis for everything she does for the town as well as her excellent recent food hygiene result.
- b) **Calendar of Meetings.** Cllr Howard requested that a Calendar of meetings be produced.
- c) **Sound System for Community Centre.** Cllr Howard asked about progress with installing a sound system in the Community Centre. The Clerk reported that he had asked the AVFHG (who requested the facility) to source a suitable system for their requirements and that would be useful to other organisations using the venue. He believes they are currently looking at what should be permanent fit, what should be wired or wireless, how the microphone and amplifier etc. are secured and how the loan of the equipment to users be undertaken. Cllr Howard volunteered to get involved with that process and would contact Terry Davis.

The meeting finished at 10.00pm.

Chair -----

Dated -----