

Saxmundham Town Council

Committee Meeting	Town Council
Meeting Date	15 January 2024
Item Number	5d
Report Title	Energy Projects Report
Report Author	Sharon Smith, Town Clerk

NGET Sealink

The Town Council's response to the Sealink statutory consultation was submitted to National Grid on 15th December 2023. The response was copied to Therese Coffey MP, the County Council, the District Council, County Cllr Richard Smith, Kelsale Parish Council, and Benhall and Sternfield Parish Council. The response is available for public view on the Town Council's website. A press release was sent to ITV News Anglia, BBC Look East, BBC Radio Suffolk, ABC Radio, Eastern Daily Press and Archant.

The District Council's response and press release are available via the following links. Saxmundham is mentioned on pages 8 to 11.

<https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Planning/Energy-Projects/Sea-Link/ESC-Response-to-Sea-Link-Statutory-Consultation.pdf?fbclid=IwAR37PxxEApdfyLOGIS5mw0wXGqkg2oTLeHNjaamG3ROAFICCsAKNMesU1JE>

https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/east-suffolk-council-sea-link-consultation-response/?fbclid=IwAR0q53otd7iycTFj3arOZLQN8ebbTmUof_DgHeHs2GielJPar0pbD7Jg6Ds

The County Council's response and covering letters are available via the following links. Saxmundham is mentioned on pages 8, 12-14, 46, 50 (and others)

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/scc-sea-link-statutory-consultation-response.pdf>

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/sealink-covering-letter-sea-link-statutory-consultation.pdf>

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/sea-link-s42-response-letter-to-eso-regarding-coordinated-offshore-networks-151223-final-redacted.pdf>

EDF Sizewell C

In December 2023, the Court of Appeal upheld that the government approval of Sizewell C was lawful and dismissed the legal challenge over the environmental impact of the project made by Together Against Sizewell C. TASC, jointly with Suffolk Coastal Friends of the Earth and Stop Sizewell C, said in response "We are dismayed by this decision and struggle to understand how the potable water supply that £30bn Sizewell C is totally reliant on for its 60 years of operation can be considered lawfully, or indeed rationally, as a separate project. Our fight for the soul of Suffolk will continue and we are in discussions with our legal team to consider our plans moving forward." Sizewell C Co issued a statement that said it was to start formal negotiations with Essex and Suffolk Water to help fund the construction of a new water main for the region.

Sizewell C Co has triggered the Deed of Obligation under the Development Consent Order and has started commencement of the project despite the fact that a Final Investment Decision has not yet been reached.

The latest Sizewell C Community newsletter is available via this link:

[SZC Community Newsletter December 2023.pdf \(sizewellc.com\)](#)

Anglian Energy Planning Alliance Newsletter

Dear Councillors,

Thank you to the many Councils who signed a joint letter to Energy Minister Andrew Bowie in the autumn. Regrettably the Department's reply came from a correspondence official rather than the Minister himself. Paul Richards, Chair of Snape Parish Council responded to express our dissatisfaction with this response, and Stop Sizewell C and others have repeatedly pressed officials for the visit to take place urgently. Minister Bowie was in fact due to come to Suffolk on 13 December, but pulled out late in the day, we understand because his portfolio was changing and it was temporarily unclear whether he would retain Networks as well as Nuclear (he did). We are very unhappy that he withdrew and felt he should have retained the visit to meet Town and Parish Councils.

We are sure you would agree that the Minister must return to Suffolk first thing in the New Year, and in particular before the Sizewell C DCO is triggered (see below).

You may have seen the news today that the Court of Appeal has denied the judicial review claim by Together Against Sizewell C and other groups. TASC are in discussion with their lawyers about next steps.

Meanwhile your Council will be in receipt of an update from Sizewell C Co. outlining plans for the project in the New Year. What this update does not specifically say, is that the intention is to trigger the legal instrument that is the DCO ("commencement") in January. Please note that this is not yet a Final Investment Decision, which is not expected to take place until the Spring. Triggering the DCO is at the project's own risk, but the government is now a majority shareholder in Sizewell C and is clearly driving this move.

In a meeting with Sizewell C's co-Managing Director on 13 December, colleagues were told not to expect a dramatic increase in construction on commencement, although - as the SZC update states - the entire perimeter of the site will be fenced and the project will work on site access. We were also told this period would involve more design work and applying for permissions.

Thank you to all those councils who have copied us their response to the Sea Link Statutory Consultation. The deadline to respond to the consultation by post is 2nd January if you have not already emailed your submission. In addition to specific concerns regarding the location of onshore infrastructure, Town and Parish councils remain concerned that, despite asking for consideration of the potential cumulative impact of the various projects, the information on cumulative impact within the DCO documents and the consultation still hold no real detail on the potential impact of concurrent developments across a wide area of East Suffolk.

We hope to host another update meeting in the Spring with if possible the attendance of Minister Bowie or another from Dept of Energy Security and Net Zero.

Thank you again for your support to the joint letter and your ongoing focus on these matters.

NSIPS Newsletter

Suffolk County Council and the Suffolk Association of Local Councils have jointly published the first issue of a regular NSIPS newsletter which can be accessed via this link:

[Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects \(NSIPs\) NEWSLETTER \(cloud.microsoft\)](#)

Lion Link

It is very likely that Lion Link will also seek permission to site a converter station alongside Sealink therefore it is important to stay informed of these project proposals which are approximately one year behind Sealink. The latest newsletter is available via this link:

[LionLink CommunityNewsletter_v7.indd \(nationalgrid.com\)](#)