

# Saxmundham Town Council

Committee Meeting	Town Council
Meeting Date	11 March 2024
Item Number	5d
Report Title	Energy Projects Report
Report Author	Sharon Smith, Town Clerk

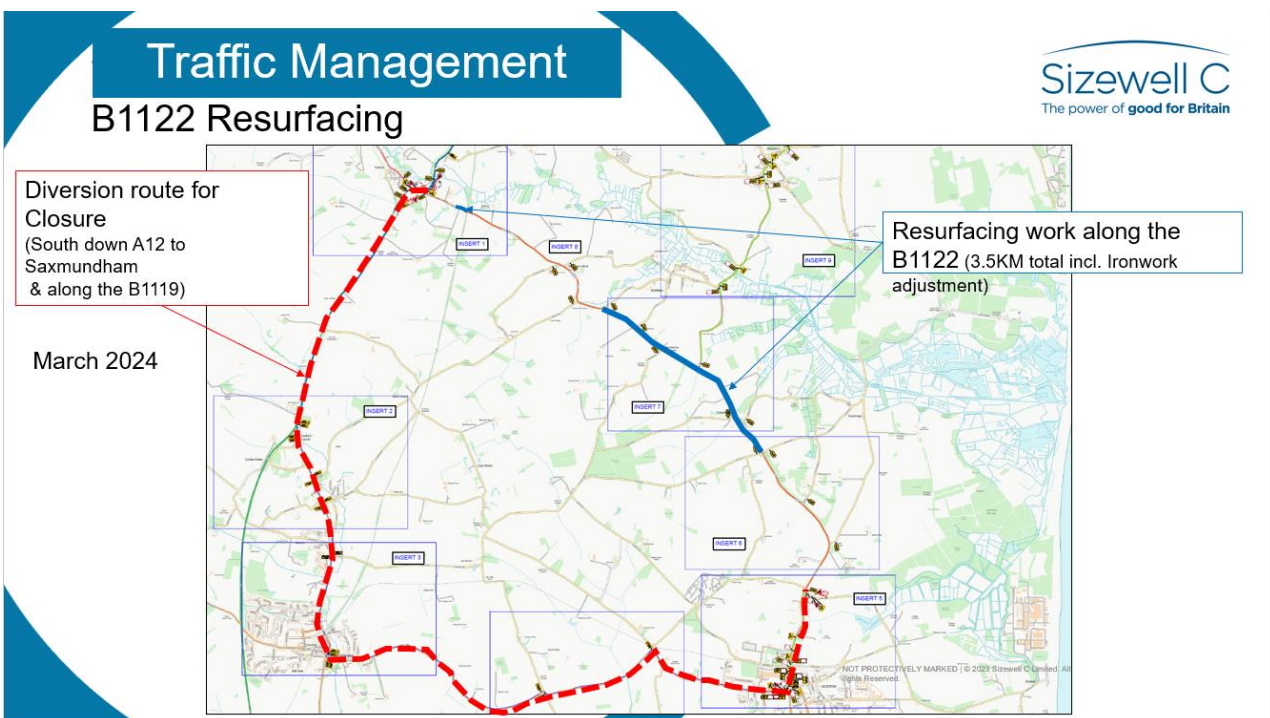
## Sizewell C

The Chair and the Town Clerk attended the ESC Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham and Villages Community Partnership meeting. A representative outlined the ESC Sizewell Community Safety Plan which addresses major forms of crime and disorder that may arise during the construction period. Two new dedicated, full-time community safety officers will work full time across areas affected by the Sizewell C build to deliver projects designed to improve community safety, engage with communities, and reduce impacts. Both the Police and SCC also have funding for additional staff. EDF's Worker Code of Conduct exerts a significant level of control over the behaviour of its employees and contractors. It includes random drink and drug testing and a well-enforced dismissal policy for those staff members who break the rules. To deal with the issue of fly-parking, EDF have their own dedicated internal team.

## Sizewell C Forums

The first Northern Transport Forum was held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and was attended by the Town Clerk. The discussion points covered the purpose of the forum, its terms of reference, an outline of the Transport Review Group, the implementation of the DCO, an update from the Main Development Site Forum, details of the B1122 and the B1125 mitigation works, the Sizewell Link Road, the Yoxford roundabout, the rail strategy and Green Rail Route, and the Northern Park and Ride site.

Resurfacing work will be carried out during the night to the B1122 through Middleton Moor and Theberton commencing 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024. It is anticipated that the work will be completed by 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024 subject to weather conditions. Traffic will be diverted down the A12 to Dorley's Corner, through Saxmundham, and along the B1119.



The first Southern Transport Forum was unfortunately scheduled for 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at the same time as the Town Council meeting and the Town Clerk's annual leave. The discussion points covered the Freight Management Facility, the Southern Park and Ride, the Two Villages By-Pass, A12 improvements at Wickham Market, Marlesford and Great Glemham, and the Worker Code of Conduct.

The first Community Forum will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at Trinity Park. The purpose is to provide the community with an update on the construction of the main site and associated development. The forum will enable local representatives and other appropriate third parties to ask questions, raise issues of concern, and help inform SZC Co on key issues affecting the local community and to find ways to minimise the impacts and maximise the benefits of the project to those living and working nearby.

### **LionLink**

LionLink is a new subsea interconnector cable between the UK and the Netherlands. SCC Growth, Highways and Infrastructure reported that following the supplementary non-statutory consultation in November 2023, National Grid Ventures informed SCC that the scoping report for the Environment Impact Assessment will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Previous consultations have included landfall options at Dunwich and Aldeburgh, however these have been discounted and the EIA scoping report will focus on landfall options at Walberswick and Southwold, as well as the cable route to a converter station at Saxmundham and substation at Friston.

Twelve months of ground investigation survey works are being undertaken at 'converter station site 3' in Saxmundham to support design development. The work commenced in November 2023, using NGV's permitted development rights under s.55 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the first six months of activity. A planning application was submitted to ESC to seek permission to retain the boreholes and trial pits for the remaining six months of monitoring. This will allow NGV to undertake geotechnical sampling and testing, surveying of all the exploratory hold locations, as well as groundwater and gas monitoring. The Town Council's Planning and Development Control Committee considered the planning application and resolved that there were no material grounds for objection.

### **Anglian Energy Planning Alliance**

The AEPA have been pressing for a programme of direct engagement with officials and ministers so that the government can fully understand the cumulative impacts that would be felt in East Suffolk from all the proposed energy projects. The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero has agreed to work with Town and Parish Councils on such a programme of engagement, up to four times per year.

This provides a channel to directly express any concerns to government and in preparation for, and to inform that work, Town and Parish Councils have been invited to attend a meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024 which the Chair and the Town Clerk will attend. The purpose of the meeting is to ascertain from Town and Parish Councils how direct engagement with government could work and a discussion about Town and Parish Council engagement with the various Sizewell C forums and ways to enhance the effectiveness of our participation.