

## **Energy Projects Report, Saxmundham Town Council, Meeting, 9 March 2026**

### **Lion Link:**

It is pleasing that East Suffolk Council (ESC) engage with affected parishes to understand concerns in connection with Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). I attended a meeting on 12 February, hosted by Councillor Tom Daly, ESC's lead on energy projects, to voice the concerns of Saxmundham Town Council in relation to National Grid Venture's (NGV) Lion Link project. Our full response to Lion Link has been distributed to councillors and is ready for submission to NGV by the 10 March 2026 deadline. Generally, concerns replicate those voiced in relation to National Grid Transmission's (NGET) Sea Link project.

### **Sea Link:**

Of significance this month is the opportunity for everyone to speak at an additional Open Floor Hearing (OFH) on 24 March and our proposed representation is presented for agreement by the council. This further OFH session relates to Benhall Bridge. Several options have been suggested by NGET, but all involve extensive temporary closures of the rail line and the B1121 (with traffic diversions through Saxmundham). NGET and Suffolk County Council (SCC), after instruction by the Examiner, suggested further options.

- NGET suggest that Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AILs) would travel via Middleton, Theberton, Leiston and Knodishall.
- SCC champions a permanent haul road that starts at the Theberton end of the new Sizewell Link Road (SLR), traverses the former Leiston Airfield, meets the B1119 by the Saxmundham Road rail crossing and proceeds along the B1119 to the site. This route would eliminate traffic in Benhall and Saxmundham and the need to build a bridge and access road adjacent to Hurts Hall of the B1121.

Immediately after the OFH, there will be another round of Issue Specific Hearings (ISHs) from 25 -27 March. As with the previous hearings, interested parties can either attend in person, via a satellite venue or on Teams. Due to the immense amount of time involved in attending I will join the hearing virtually. Whilst Sea Link requires an inordinate attendance, the Sizewell C Transport Forum is held quarterly, and perhaps this time lapse is too long due to the considerable road and rail works currently under construction.

### **Sizewell C:**

The Southern Transport Forum was not particularly well attended with several parishes and no East Suffolk Council representative present. It is an opportunity to raise concerns and receive updates from Sizewell C in relation to rail and road issues:

1. Sizewell C HGV signage should now be attached to both the front and rear of the vehicles.
2. The Friday Street roundabout is scheduled for opening on 30 March 2026 and the Yoxford roundabout should be open on 31 March 2026. This does not equate to completion of works as there will be extensive road tie-in works to be undertaken that will require further traffic management and road closures.
3. A12 roadworks at Marlesford in quarter 2, 2026 will result in overnight closures and traffic management.
4. The Saxmundham A12/B1119 junction works are delayed to quarter 4, 2026.
5. Fly-parking will be monitored and is included within the worker's Code of Conduct. Those that ignore three warnings will be dismissed.
6. NSIPs Sizewell C is liaising with NGV and NGET, Lion Link and Sea Link developments. There was little expansion on this.

7. There are rail closures planned that will impact Saxmundham travellers on 7-8 March, 14-15 March and 21-21 March with rail replacement buses being provided.
8. IMPORTANTLY – the entire line will be closed for nine days 23-31 May 2026. This is the Bank Holiday week. Moreover, heavy work will be undertaken just north of Saxmundham in the proximity of the Sizewell spur. I requested that trains should not idle in Saxmundham overnight and that residents are informed of the works.

Gnb/5 March 2026