

Middleton cum Fordley Parish Council
Notes of a Public meeting 7.30 pm July 25 2022

The meeting was attended by 22 residents of the Parish and by Tom McGarry (Head of Regional External Affairs and Development), Andy Mower (Senior Community Relations Manager) and Michelle Emmerson-Grey (Community Relations Manager) all of Sizewell C Nuclear Development.

The meeting was chaired by Julian Cusack (Chair - Parish Council) . Parish Councillors Steve Thorpe, Lynda Whitbread and Roy Dowding were also present.

These notes cover some of the more important parts of the meeting but are not a comprehensive account of the proceedings.

The meeting began with a presentation by Tom McGarry.

He acknowledged that the Parish does not want SZC and that there is no guarantee that it will go ahead notwithstanding that planning permission has in effect been granted by the approval of the Development Consent Order (DCO) by the Secretary of State.

His hope/expectation is that construction will start in mid-2023 and is expected to take 10-12 years.

On this timetable the peak of the construction activity including vehicle movements will be in 2028. At this point he said there would be 4 freight trains to the site each day and two beach landing sites - one for aggregates and one (which would be permanent) for large pieces of equipment.

They plan to build the Sizewell Link Road (SLR) and the Two Villages Bypass in the first two years. He acknowledged that this would cause disruption for residents of Middleton Moor with traffic levels expected to increase by 22% in the morning and 40% in the evening. Once the SLR is in use traffic levels on the B1122 will drop to well below current levels. He noted that 15% of HGVs will approach from the north. These will divert on to the SLR before Middleton Moor using the Middleton Moor link road.

Tom said that SZC HGV traffic would be monitored using a GPS system. Any contractor not using the designated route would risk losing their contract. In the event of a traffic incident on the A14 or A12 SZC bound vehicles would be held at the Freight Facility (Nacton) or diverted off the road to a holding area at the southern park and ride site near Wickham Market.

Following his presentation Tom took questions from the meeting including:

- Cost - he did not have an updated project cost - there has been no update since 2020
- Dental services - noted that there was already inadequate provision but there would be no additional dental capacity provided for SZC workers
- White van deliveries - plan is to consolidate parcel deliveries at the southern park and ride site

- What facilities will be provided at the workers' campus? Canteen, 2 bars, gym, Wifi, 2400 ensuite rooms (smaller but similar to Premier Inn)
- Effect of EDF now being 100% owned by French Govt - Tom said this will make no operational difference
- Shift patterns - will work carry on 24/7? Not agreed so far but some operations (including concrete pouring for the reactor base) will need to be continuous over days and nights

Following questions to Tom, Andy Mower presented basic information on the Deed of Obligation which is equivalent to a s.106 planning agreement and provides (together with a separate Environment Deed) for approx £250m of funding to the community.

In respect to the impact of traffic on Middleton Moor/B1122 residents it was stated that each property would be offered a structural survey before work starts and again after the SLR becomes operational and any defects attributable to the SLR would be rectified.

The Parish Councillors also asked that the Council be offered membership of the B1125 working group in addition to its existing offer to join the B1122 working group.

Roy Dowding (Vice Chair of the Parish Council) then read out a prepared statement.

"In a recent bulletin issued by Tom McGarry, he stated that EDF would be showing **Humility**. He repeated the comment in his preamble before this evening's presentation.

But Roy requested that the Deed of Obligation should, in addition to its financial and governance obligations, also include

Respect

On 24th June, Julia Pyke, Sizewell C's Director of Finance and Economic Regulation, had chastised Lord Deben's comments made at a nuclear conference the day before, in which he criticised the choice of the site from an environmental aspect – a worthy comment by a knowledgeable person who was wholly entitled to say that. Ms Pyke effectively accused Lord Deben of being a 'Nimby' and went further, saying that no-one within the area affected by Sizewell C is entitled to broadcast an opinion about the scheme.

This makes an absolute mockery of the 10 years of Public Consultation that EDF have held, and only confirms the worst fears held by a great number of people who participated that their answers would be disregarded.

An apology by Julia Pyke is in order for such a slight on both Lord Deben and the thousands of local residents who took part in the consultations and the Planning Inspectorate DCO procedure.

Honesty

In the Special Edition Community Newsletter issued by EDF on 20th July, Julia Pyke states:

".....the proposal for a new nuclear power station next to Sizewell B has been granted permission to be built by the UK Government. This follows an intense period of examination of the application by the Planning Inspectorate. The outcome underlines that Sizewell C is an appropriate site for the building of a new nuclear power station: the right project in the right place at the right time."

It has to be said that this statement is cleverly worded, in that it implies the Planning Inspectorate approved the application. In fact they had not. The Secretary of State has overruled their decision, flying in the face of their thorough examination over a long period,

and contrary to the advice coming from his own government Treasury watchdogs, that the proposal is a huge financial risk.

Can we request that future relationships/communications to be honest and above board?

Inclusion

Middleton PC has learned that a meeting between BEIS, EDF and certain Parish and Town Councils was planned shortly before the DCO decision was postponed. Middleton was not invited to participate. Why? And Middleton seems to have been excluded from the B1125 Early Years Working Group.

We are also concerned that our voice may not be heard by the Transport Review Group when it is formed after commencement of construction."

Tom responded by saying that Julia Pyke did not call Lord Deben a nimby, but that his comments had reflected nimbyism – it is unlikely that the audience could readily perceive the difference! He also explained that the SOS made the decision to approve Sizewell C some eight weeks after the PINS decision, following the resolution of their principal concern over water supply with Northumbrian Water.

After another round of Q&A the meeting closed at about 9.30. Most of the questions were concerned with traffic related issues around Middleton and on the A12/A14 including the effect of the SLR on access to the south along Fordley Road, which Tom agreed is a subject warranting further investigation.