

Middleton-cum-Fordley Parish Council

Response to EDF Consultation on Further Proposed Project Changes

10th July 2021



This is the response of Middleton cum Fordley Parish Council (MCFPC) to the Consultation on Further Proposed Project Changes.

References are to the EDF document at https://www.edfenergy.com/sites/default/files/sizewell-c-project_consultation-document_june-2021_compressed.pdf

Introduction

In May 2021 members of the Parish Council went door to door asking Middleton and Fordley residents what they thought about Sizewell C and the proposed Sizewell Link Road (SLR).

We got responses from 138 individuals which is about 44% of the total on the electoral register.

The results are set out in in the Appendix.

The clear messages based on majority views (over 70%) are:

- opposition to the construction of a new nuclear power station at Sizewell
- support for a relief road if SZC does go ahead and for this to be in place before construction starts
- opposition to the proposed route of the SLR, with many expressing a preference for a route leaving the A12 further south
- strong support if the SLR does go ahead for more off-road pedestrian and cycling provision along the B1122 and B1125 and for traffic calming measures.

Opposition to the proposed route for the SLR derives from concerns about the resulting 'severance' of the Parish.

This has at least three consequences of concern:

1. The blocking under current plans of the 'minor road' routes to the south, which are used by many residents to access Saxmundham and beyond
2. The disruption of farming businesses from the loss of land to the road and the blocking of access routes, causing increased costs of working
3. The intrusion of the SLR into the landscape and the physical divide it will make between Fordley and Middleton.

This response takes into account the results of the survey as well as other representations made to MCFPC by residents.

Further information relating to SLR was provided at a meeting with representatives of EDF on July 5th 2021. The EDF representatives agreed to provide further information. This information has not yet been provided.

Responses to the proposed changes

We have a significant number of detailed concerns about the impact of the SLR and these have been raised with EDF at our meeting on July 5th and in previous consultation responses.

In this document we will restrict our responses to two new proposals set out as part of Proposed Change 18 beginning on page 17 of the Consultation document.

1. Pretty Road bridge

Proposal: *'A change from a Non-Motorised User bridge to a vehicular bridge to avoid the closure of Pretty Road and increase connectivity across the route of the Sizewell link road. The junction between Pretty Road and the Sizewell link road on the south west side of the route is therefore no longer to be included in the proposals.'*

Our response

Our survey results confirmed that a significant number of residents (79% of respondents who answered this question) regularly use Pretty Road to get to Saxmundham. This was higher than for any of the other minor roads proposed to be severed by the SLR.

We therefore **support** this proposed change.

2. Littlemoor Road proposed walking and cycling route

Proposal: *'Previously a new walking and cycling route was proposed from the existing Littlemore Road, which would continue along the proposed Middleton Moor link, to allow a crossing point over the route of the proposed Sizewell link road east of the junction with the Middleton Moor link, before re-joining Littlemore Road on the south side of the route. It is now proposed that the walking and cycling route would utilise the existing Littlemore Road where the road is stopped up, with a new route provided in two locations: an approximately 100m section will be provided to cross the proposed Middleton Moor link, and an approximately 100m section to allow a crossing point over the route of the proposed Sizewell link road **east**¹ of the junction with the Middleton Moor link. There will be an additional crossing point from the previous proposals however this will reduce the diversion length by approximately 144m compared to the previous proposals.'*

Our response

Littlemoor Road currently has limited vehicular traffic. Use for amenity purposes by pedestrians, runners and cyclists has been increasing and this is a trend the Parish Council supports - for example by its proposal that the road be given 'Quiet Lane' designation and by an agreement with the Highways Authority to delay cutting the verges.

¹ This should read 'west' as shown in the relevant map. This error in the text has been acknowledged by EDF.

We therefore support the proposal in principle to provide continuity for walkers and cyclists along this route.

However, the proposed change set out above would require walkers and cyclists to cross both the Middleton Link Road and the SLR whereas previously there was only one crossing (of the SLR).

We already had grave concerns about the safety and attractiveness of this route. Both the new roads are proposed to be unrestricted with traffic travelling at up to 60 mph. Requiring now that walkers and cyclists cross two busy roads instead of one and maintaining (as the document does) that this improves safety seems counter-intuitive.

At our meeting on July 6th the representatives of EDF confirmed that there were no current plans to provide protection by way of zebra or pelican crossings, central refuges or foot bridges. They did however say that ' we will ensure the infrastructure of the lanes is linked as much as possible and signed so that they provide a purposeful route for pedestrians and cyclists. ' They also said that there was a possibility that the proposed Cycling Connectivity Fund could be deployed to provide pedestrian footbridges. They agreed to come back to us on this idea but have not yet done so.

Pending further information, we **oppose** the change from one to two road crossings as proposed by this change.

Appendix: Survey results

Middleton Parish Council: Residents Survey May 2021				
Green = over 70% said 'yes'. Red = over 70% said 'no'. Amber = yes and no both less than 70%**				
Question	RESPONSE		YES	NO
1. Do you think SZC should be built?	91%		15%	85%
2. Do you think a relief road is needed to reduce traffic through Middleton Moor?	94%		88%	12%
3. Do you think the relief road should be on the route proposed by EDF?	87%		28%	72%
4. If the Sizewell Relief Road (SLR) is built on the proposed route, do you think it should be permanent?	80%		61%	39%
5. Do you think construction of SZC should be deferred until the SLR is built?	97%		93%	7%
6. Do you regularly use any of the following roads to get to Saxmundham?				
Pretty Road	99%		79%	21%
Hawthorn Road	98%		39%	61%
Fordley Road	98%		78%	22%
Littlemoor Road	95%		59%	41%
7. Would you support the provision of a bridge to take Pretty Road across the SLR?	85%		93%	7%
8. Would you support the provision of a bridge or underpass to take Fordley Road across the SLR?	75%		55%	45%
9. Would you accept that Fordley Road be closed to motor vehicles if Pretty Road was kept open?	81%		56%	44%
10. If Fordley Road is closed to motor vehicles, would you be likely to use a footbridge over SLR?	81%		69%	31%
11. If vehicle access south to Saxmundham is maintained along Pretty Road and/or Fordley Road, would you accept the closure of Hawthorn and Littlemoor Road?	75%		67%	33%
12. Do you support a request to provide off-road pedestrian and cycling routes along:				
The B1122 from Middleton Moor to Mill Street?	95%		89%	11%
The B1125 from Westleton to Black Slough?	95%		85%	15%
The B1125 from Black Slough to Rectory Road?	95%		92%	8%
The B1125 from Rectory Road to the junction of B1122? *	91%		80%	20%
13. Would you support traffic calming measures on the B1125 and B1122 to reduce the incidence of speeding etc.	94%		98%	2%
14. Specifically, would you support a 30mph speed limit on the B1125 between Westleton and Middleton?	95%		95%	5%
15. Do you think the B1125 should be linked with a new section of road to the SLR?	75%		56%	44%
Notes:				
Survey results were obtained from 138 individuals at 102 addresses.				
These comprise 44% of the individuals and 60% of the addresses in the Parish.				
Not everyone answered each question. The response rate shown for each question is the proportion of the 138 individuals surveyed who answered that question.				
The percentages shown for yes and no are calculated on the total of those who answered the question.				
The surveys were carried out between 12th and 25th May 2021.				