

TEAGS ANNUAL REPORT

TO THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

12th April 2017

Despite financial and other issues, EDF's Main Board agreed in July 2016 to proceed with Hinkley Point C in Somerset. Sizewell C is closely tied into the story on Hinkley Point C. EDF say that the UK's decision to leave the EU will not affect their proposals for Hinkley or Sizewell.

Over the past year, TEAGS steering group members have maintained frequent contact with officers and councillors of SCDC and SCC, with senior management of EDF, with local and national environmental groups and many others. We have also built excellent rapport with local media – EADT, BBC Look East and ITV Anglia in particular, who have all been very supportive and are now much more familiar with this parish. We are very aware that we still desperately need 'that story' that will catch the attention of the *national* press.

Early in 2016 TEAGS prepared a detailed paper – *The Case for the D2 Relief Road* - which was sent out to both councils, our MP and others. It is vital that we continue to raise awareness on this issue and build up real evidence to support our case – this could then be presented to the Planning Inspector.

We met Therese Coffey MP in September on her lightning tour of her constituency, and again pressed for her support to persuade EDF to change its plans for workers' accommodation and the use of the B1122. She is certainly not in favour of the current location for the workers' campus, but less outspoken about the transport plans. Her role, since last July, as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has made it more difficult to secure meetings with her, but TEAGS is hoping to bring about a meeting of all four local MPs to press for some joined up thinking on our key issues for all the communities that will be affected.

Suffolk County Council announced the results of the Accent Report regarding local residents' concerns about EDF's plan to route all Sizewell C construction traffic through Yoxford and along the B1122. SCC felt there is currently a lack of satisfactory mitigation proposed by EDF for the inevitable impacts, and we hope they will continue to press EDF for improvements.

Over the past 12 months and particularly since the second consultation in November, the EADT has published a significant number of articles concerning the economics, environment, accommodation and transportation issues surrounding the proposed build. They then also published summaries of responses by local councils, environmental organisations and others, regarding the impacts of the 10 to 12 year build.

Local and national newspapers have reported concerns over faults in the quality of the steel used to make the Flamanville reactor, which would also affect Hinkley, revealing that Areva (an EDF subsidiary) has been falsifying quality control reports. It is still unclear whether EDF will be able to get any reactor operational at full capacity before 2020. EDF's Tom McGarry maintains, however, that the Taischan plant will be ready end 2017, and Flamanville in 2018.

It was frustrating and disappointing that Stage 2 consultation was held over Christmas, again. From November, TEAGS held parallel exhibitions, entitled *A Better Route to Sizewell C*, following EDF's own roadshow at: Theberton, Leiston, Westleton, Aldeburgh, Saxmundham, Blythburgh, Southwold (leafleting only), Darsham, Middleton and Yoxford. Our exhibition was also on display at the Joint Local Authorities Group meeting at Darsham, and also at SCC Endeavour House in Ipswich in

December. Our exhibitions involved a huge amount of work for everyone, but we had excellent response from visitors.

In January the Parish Council and TEAGS took advantage of help offered by Planning Aid England on how best to construct our formal responses to Stage 2. TEAGS delivered its response – 25 pages, with illustrations, available on our website – to EDF, and copied it to key players.

TEAGS attended the cabinet meetings where the joint local authority response to EDF was to be approved. During the SCC Cabinet meeting, TEAGS representatives were able to ask four questions regarding accommodation and B1122 issues. Overall the joint response was stronger than we had expected, although it is clear that SCDC are less inclined to be critical of EDF's proposals than are SCC.

Many Parish Councils and Environmental Groups have shared their responses between each other and with SCDC and SCC, enabling everyone to better understand each other's position and have a clearer view of the issues that EDF will ultimately have to respond to.

January proved to be a busy month, with a well-rehearsed Parish Council and TEAGS public meeting attended by more than 200 people, including councillors and our MP, and several meetings with EDF (including Jim Crawford, SZC Project Director) on transport, accommodation, social impacts and more. We met with the National Trust, hoping to engage their interest in the blight that the campus could mean for Dunwich Heath, with Suffolk Preservation Society who are very sympathetic to our cause and have offered practical help (and TEAGS has now joined SPS) and more.

TEAGS and MLSG attended the Suffolk Coast Against Retreat AGM in March. Contacts were made with Peter Aldous MP (Waveney), Lord Deben (John Gummer) and Therese Coffey MP (Suffolk Coastal), amongst others. The meeting overall was highly critical of the confidentiality agreements and lack of transparency that prevent others from accessing environmental assessment data, and critical too of the accommodation proposals.

TEAGS steering group last met in March and drew up a list of what to do next, to keep up the pressure, to raise our profile, to build more evidence-based arguments, to raise funds to fight Stage 3 – for example with professional planning advice - and to engage support from the wider communities.

Last but not least, please note that after nearly 4 years as Chair of TEAGS, Jon Swallow decided to step down as chair, because of commitments as Chair of SPLG and as a Parish Councillor, though he remains an active member of the steering group. Su Swallow and Alison Downes have taken over as co-chairs. They would like to thank the Parish Council for their continued support for TEAGS and would welcome residents' thoughts on our activities and what more we might do over the coming months.