

# THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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District Cllr. Tony Cooper  
District Cllr. Jocelyn Bond  
District Cllr. Steve Gallant  
District Cllr. Craig Rivett

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020

Dear Councillors

We would like to bring to your attention the resolute belief of Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council that ESC should withdraw their support for the SZC Project during the free debate on 3<sup>rd</sup> September and in their Relevant Representation to the Planning Inspectorate.

After four stages of consultation over eight years or more, EDF have failed to provide adequate information on the impacts of the project to the local community, the existing economy, or the wider environment.

Despite repeated requests for this supporting information and EDF's assurances that all of these issues will be addressed in the Development Consent Order application, we are dismayed that many of the same questions remain unanswered and reasons given for rejecting various options, such as campus and relief road locations are only summarily addressed instead of having been properly investigated and compared to EDF's preferred options.

Considering this proposal sites one of the largest developments in Europe on the eroding Suffolk coast, in an area of significant water stress relative to much of the UK, within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty with significant designated habitats on all sides, it is unacceptable that there is no plan for coastal defence, inadequate analysis of coastal impacts to the north and south of the site, no clear plan for supplying the water required for the construction or operation and EDF have taken the step of invoking Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest to justify their impacts on protected species in this area.

Local impacts to our community include some residents expected to receive between 200 and 600 fold increase in noise levels during construction, the proposed Sizewell Link Road will sever Theberton and Eastbridge from its road links to Saxmundham and the west by the closing of Pretty Road and Moat Road to through traffic. The B1122 through Theberton will also be the only route for significant HGV traffic for two years of Sizewell B relocation works and the first two and a half years of "early years" site preparation and main earthworks and yet no proposals are made to introduce traffic calming or enhance pedestrian access for Theberton residents.

Analysis of the impact on the local economy does not meet the standards required by energy legislation in EN-1 and EN-6.

- EDF's claims of inward investment from construction activities based on experience at Hinkley Point C ignore the vastly different and smaller business environment in Norfolk and Suffolk. Claims of additional employment for the economically inactive are overblown and experience at Hinkley Point show that targets of 8% have been significantly missed with only 2% being achieved.
- Local employment is also predicted to displace over 700 existing locally employed people into jobs at SZC which will mainly be in the low skilled services group with less than 10% of management jobs expected to be filled by locals.
- The overall impact, as researched by the Destination Management Organisation, shows 400 expected job losses and between £25-40 million revenue losses in the tourist economy.
- Given EDF's definition of local being anyone who is within a 90 minute each-way commute, it is unlikely that many high skilled jobs will be created in the immediate vicinity and most will be of the low skilled service jobs causing serious impacts to existing service businesses supporting tourism and the care sector.
- Existing businesses will struggle to retain staff and could easily become unviable given increases in recruitment costs and scarcity of available recruits.

For the past eight years since initial consultation were held, the Parish Council have engaged with EDF in a spirit of cooperation, trying to understand their proposals and options and looking for reassurance that the project would minimise impacts and provide benefits to residents and the area as a whole. Unfortunately, as consultations dragged on, we came to a reluctant conclusion that EDF were not listening, their proposals, evidence and justifications were increasingly hollow and following the Stage 4 consultation we resolved that, as matters stood at that time, we could no longer support this project.

Having now examined the DCO Application documents we find that little has changed and the lack of evidence, justifications and impacts for the project are such that we believe that it cannot be supported under any definition of benefit to the community, economy or environment.

This is **the wrong project in the wrong place** and, given EDF's appalling record of cost and time management for its other EPR projects, **there is simply no time at which this should be given the go ahead.**

Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council call upon you to smell the coffee and reject this application in your response to the Planning Inspectorate on the grounds that it does not offer any benefits to Suffolk, even less to East Suffolk and will actually damage the area in almost every aspect that is being considered in this application.

Yours sincerely

Sharon Smith

Clerk to Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council

Cc:

County Cllr. Richard Smith

County Cllr. Martin Hicks

Cllr. Richard Rout