

MINUTES OF THE THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL,
THEBERTON ON WEDNESDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7:00 PM

1. Attendance and apologies

Attendees:

Cllr. Stephen Brett – Chair
Cllr. Hilary Ward – Vice Chair
Cllr. Bob Flindall
Cllr. Hazel Collins
Cllr. Daryl Ash
Cllr. Paul Collins
Cllr. Steven Morphey

Apologies for absence:

Cllr. Graham Ward - Apologised
District Cllr. Tom Daly – Apologised
District Cllr. Katie Graham
District Cllr. Sarah Whitelock
Cllr. Nat Bacon - Apologised

Members of the public:

No members of the public.

In attendance:

Honor Houlding - Clerk/RFO
County Cllr. Richard Smith

2. To receive declarations of interest and to consider requests for dispensations

None.

3. Public Forum

a) Members of the public may address the Council on any agenda item.

None present.

b) To receive a report from the County Councillor.

County Cllr. Richard Smith began by noting the cancellation of the attendance of Sizewell C Development Team at the Theberton and Eastbridge September meeting that the team had attended Yoxford and Aldringham-Cum-Thorpe Parish Council meetings recently. He continued so state that it is believed that the Sizewell C Development Team will rearrange the meeting after the B1122 working group meetings have resumed.

Cllr. Paul Collins expressed his concerned that he hoped that the meeting will not adjoin the planned meet on the 19th of September and that we will get the opportunity to have a Parish meeting with the Sizewell C Development Team for the Parish in due course.

County Cllr. Richard Smith continued by explaining that he believes that the Development Consent Order for the Sizewell Development will be triggered at the end of 2023 or perhaps early in 2024 and that we are waiting upon various announcements for this to be confirmed.

At the recent monthly Cabinet, the County Council reported that based on the Quarter 1 report and using a projection for the rest of 2023 financial year there will be a drastic overspend of £30million. This is mainly due to the significant rise in social care responsibilities particularly with regards to youths and mental health care. He continued to explain that in Suffolk and nationally we are dealing with some very challenging young people who require 24 hour care which can cost the County Council over £20,000 per young adult per week. Other contributions to the anticipated overspend are the raise in general inflation and increase in pay awards.

Although there are no immediate solutions to the increase in costs of care, Richard added that Suffolk County Council, more so than many other County Councils has reasonable monetary reserves and ensures us of our County Council's financial stability.

The Central Government are also on an economy saving drive therefore it is uncertain that local governments will receive help from them for funding the mentioned shortfalls. The only other alternative would be for the NHS to take over the responsibility for social care in Britain however through the health service the care could cost up to twice as much. He mentioned that it is likely that Council Tax rates will increase to help cover the shortfall at an estimated increase of 4%.

County Cllr. Richard Smith continued to state that this may impact his area of responsibility the Highways budget and that he hopes that there will be enough funds left in the budget to replace 300 road signs across the county at a cost of around £1,000 per individual sign.

County Cllr. Richard Smith discussed the effects of The Council opting to no longer use Glyphosate, a chemical known for its detrimental effects on insects and bees, for treating weeds in the UK which has led to an epidemic of weeds in the County, some reaching 5 feet tall. He explained that although there is an Council approved alternative to Glyphosate it is not as effective as its predecessor.

c) To receive reports from the District Councillors.

None present.

District Cllr. Tom Daly had pre circulated his August 2023 Parish Report which was in turn sent to the Council. Please see the report attached as **Appendix I**.

4. Minutes and Matters Arising

a) To approve as accurate the minutes of the meeting on 9th August 2023.

It was proposed by Stephen Brett and seconded by Cllr. Paul Collins and agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th August 2023 to be signed as a true record. All in favour.

b) Matters arising.

None.

5. Energy Projects

a) To receive an update from Cllr. Paul Collins.

The Council noted the latest Energy Report which is attached as **Appendix II**.

Cllr. Paul Collins reported the recent judicial review where an appeal has been granted on two counts out of the five listed which he explains to be encouraging. He added that that there could be very good chance that the water issue may succeed in its appeal. However, we are yet to hear when the review will take place or any further details of the hearing. Cllr. Paul Collins was congratulated by the Council for his continued hard work and dedication to the local energy developments.

Cllr. Paul Collins continued to summarise his August Energy Report to the Council.

With regards to the Property Price Support Scheme, Cllr. Stephen Brett informed the council that a local resident who has been declined under the scheme due to the retrospective nature of his application to the scheme had asked for advice on whether The Council would support his intention of reporting the matter to the media. The consensus of the Council was that the press may not view his case on a sympathetic level and that this could bring unwanted attention to the Parish and therefore they would not support this case. All in favour.

ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett to explain to resident that the council do not support advising the press with regards to the Sizewell PPS Scheme.

Cllr. Paul Collins continued to discuss the PPSS and the matter of residents of Theberton who are currently unaware of their ability to apply for the scheme on a case by case basis. Cllr. Paul Collins has produced a map of where he believes the boundary for the case by case should fall to be presented to Sizewell C.

The Clerk offered to produce a report providing feedback to Sizewell C Community Officers to be reviewed by the Council at the Parish Council's October meeting.

[ACTION: Clerk to produce a report providing feedback to the Sizewell C Community Officers and send to the Council to review.](#)

County Cllr. Richard Smith exited the meeting.

6. Planning

- a) To consider planning application DC/23/3242/FUL – Erection of 8.1m high swift nesting tower – The Eel's Foot, Eastbridge of which the expiry date is 14/09/23.

Planning has been discussed in the past and agreed. The Council agreed that they would continue their support for the project and there are no requirements to comment on the application. All in favour.

[ACTION: Clerk to submit feedback of support of the swift tower on the East Suffolk Planning Portal.](#)

7. Clerk/Councillors' Reports

- a) Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Maintenance Volunteer Scheme.

Cllr. Robert Flindall presented some of his ideas to help bring together a Strategic Plan for Theberton and Eastbridge Parish and its Councillors including how we can take advantage of local grants and funding, a neighbourhood volunteer plan to assist with maintenance across the Parish and concentrating on formulating our council's priorities moving into 2024. Some of these priorities may include transport links, common land, cycling routes, footpaths, and tourism to our area. Also, how we as Parish can become a stronger community; by working with others within our Parish, such as the church and Community Council but also other's outside of our Parish; East Suffolk Council, the Environmental Health Organisation, RSPB, AONB, Suffolk Wildlife Trust and other local Parishes. Cllr. Robert Flindall agreed to produce a report with further ideas to present at our next meeting on the 11th of October 2023.

[ACTION: Cllr. Robert Flindall will produce a report on developing a strategic plan for the Council.](#)

[ACTION: Honor circulate strategic objectives, high on agenda next month.](#)

- b) Community Council.

Cllr. Hilary Ward stated that the next meeting Community Council meeting is taking place on Thursday 14th September, however there are a strong of community events in the pipeline including the Autumn Jumble Sale, a Village Quiz and Guy Fawkes's night event. The Community Council have asked for the Parish's permission to use the playing field for their fireworks event on the 4th of November for a BBQ, fireworks and small bonfire. The Parish voted as all in favour for allowing the event to take place on Theberton Playing Field.

- c) Police Crime Report.

The Council noted the latest report which is attached as **Appendix III**.

There was one instance of Criminal Damage and Arson reported in Theberton in July and one crime to report in Eastbridge for Violence and Sexual Offence in July 2023.

d) Parish Grit Bins.

The Clerk highlighted that East Suffolk Council had been in contact to arrange deliveries of salt for the Parish grit bins for the winter period. The Council informed the Clerk that although they had researched the possibility of purchasing grit bins for the Parish in the past, that there had been no suitable areas to house a grit bin in the Parish and therefore we would not require a delivery of salt.

e) Theberton Playing Field.

With regards to the ongoing police case at Theberton Playing Field, it was reported that PC Cain had visited the family in question and spoken to them with regards to respecting items in their community. It was felt by the Council that this would be enough of a deterrent and no further actions would be necessary.

Cllr. Hilary Ward reported that during a recent visit to the Theberton Playing Field that she had noticed 2 dents in the metal slide that could also have been made during the recent vandalism at the park. However, due to the dents not causing issues to the safety of the equipment it was agreed that there would be no further actions to take with regards to this matter.

The Clerk reported back on the inspections of both the Theberton and Eastbridge playing fields as it had been questioned in last month's meeting why we have two separate companies inspecting each site and whether it could be more cost efficient to use one individual company. The Clerk informed the Council that Sovereign Play who inspect and insure Eastbridge playing field will not cover play equipment not purchased from them and therefore that is why ROSPA have been the chosen company for inspecting the Theberton Playing Field equipment.

It was agreed by the Council that the Clerk should instruct the inspection to take place at Theberton Playing Field equipment through ROSPA and report back on the cost of the annual inspection in due course.

The Clerk also brought to the Council's attention that ROSPA had offered to create and implement a specified routine checklist for checking the play equipment at Theberton Playing Field however the Council agreed that they did not think that this was necessary and that members of the Council would continue to check the equipment regularly.

ACTION: Clerk to book Theberton Playing Field Inspection with ROSPA, no requirement to purchase specified routine playing equipment checklist.

ACTION: Cllr Nat Bacon to report back to the Council on the refurbishment of the tractor and cost for fixing the damaged mud guard.

f) Village Noticeboards.

Cllr. Stephen Brett informed the Council that the resident who he had spoken with to obtain a quote for completing repairs on the Village Noticeboards is currently recovering from an injury and is unable to complete the work at present.

ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett to continue with pursuing quotes for the refurbishment of the village noticeboards.

g) Eastbridge Common

It was noted that the weeds growing on the Eastbridge Common have grown too large due to the wet weather in recent months. The Council agreed that the area should be mowed again as raking the weeds at this stage will not be affective.

h) Speed Indicator Device.

The Council noted the latest report which is attached as **Appendix IV**.

Cllr. Paul Collins added that the factors shown were within the normal parameters and that the device and solar powered system are working correctly.

Cllr. Stephen Brett also reported that since the SID pole was reported at our last meeting to be tilting, that he had visited the site and corrected the angle of the pole.

i) Newsletter and Website Update.

Cllr. Hilary Ward has spoken with the suggested author of the newsletter who suggested that we re-establish the newsletter on a 2 month trial at £22.00 per month during the trial period. The Council agreed that the newsletter trial should begin in November, therefore all relevant information to be included in the first issue should be sent to the author by 25th of October 2023.

It was proposed by Cllr. Paul Collins and seconded by Cllr. Hazel Collins that we begin the 2 month newsletter trial at a rate of £22.00 per month. All in favour.

ACTION: Cllr. Hilary Ward to organise the two month trial of the Village Newsletter beginning in November 2023.

The Council noted that the Parish website has not been updated in recent times and is rather outdated compared to other modern websites.

ACTION: The Clerk will produce a report on possible improvements to the Parish Council website by reviewing other local Parish Council websites.

j) Energy Efficiency Community Network Event – 4th November 2023.

The council was asked whether each of them wished to attend the Energy Efficiency Community Network Event on 4th November to represent and report back to the Parish. Cllr. Hazel Collins and Cllr. Daryl Ash have offered to attend the Networking Event.

ACTION: Clerk to register Cllr. Hazel Collins and Cllr. Daryl Ash to attend the Community Network Event on 4th November 2023.

k) Citizens Advice Donation.

It was proposed by Cllr. Stephen Brett and seconded by Cllr. Hilary Ward that the Council donate their Annual £50.00 donation to the Citizen's Advice Bureaus for their continued work within the community. All in favour.

ACTION: Clerk to organise and set up a payment of a £50 donation to Citizens Advice Bureau.

l) SALC Community Awards.

Cllr. Hilary Ward confirmed she would attend the SALC Community Awards on Monday 25 September at The Food Museum, Stowmarket on behalf of the Parish to collect our Highly Commended Certificate.

ACTION: Clerk to send suggested photographs to SALC ahead of the awards ceremony on the 25th September.

ACTION: Cllr. Hilary Ward to attend the award presentation on Monday 25th September.

m) 20's Plenty for Suffolk Campaign.

The Council noted that because Theberton and Eastbridge are both likely to receive 20mph speed limits during the development of Sizewell C that they did not require to participate in the 20's Plenty for Suffolk Campaign.

ACTION: Clerk to write to the 20's Plenty Campaign and politely decline Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council's participation in the campaign.

k) Outstanding Actions List.

ACTION: Clerk to compile a report for feedback to Sizewell C from Cllr. Hilary Ward and Cllr. Paul Collins feedback to the meeting held on 2nd August and circulate with the Council for approval before sending to Sizewell C.

ACTION: Cllr. Steven Morphey to continue with burial ground shed improvements and purchasing of paints and solar light for the shed.

8. Parish Matters

a) Discuss the erosion due to badgers of the footpath to the sluice at Rose Cottage, Eastbridge.

Cllr. Hazel Collins explained that the path that leads to the Sluice gate does not seem to be eroding further and that in fact perhaps due to the amount of rain in the last month, the path appears to be improving and that she feels causing less of a risk to pedestrians and walkers.

b) AONB Amenity and Accessibility Funding – closing date 15th September.

It was noted that although we are too late to apply for this particular grant, that we should be aware of future funding that could help fund community improvements such as cycle path routes around the Parish.

ACTION: Cllr. Robert Flindall to add Parish cycle paths as a potential project on the strategic objectives report.

9. Finance

a) To note the latest financial position.

It was proposed by Cllr. Stephen Brett, seconded by Cllr. Paul Collins and agreed the latest financial position is a true record. All in favour.

Ask at district council if they would like to continue grant.

Locality Budget to pay for broadband to

ACTION: Clerk to add possible funding for paying the Jubilee Hall Broadband to October's meeting agenda.

b) To ratify the following payments which were made to accept contract change for the Jubilee Hall Broadband.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Jubilee Hall Broadband (final payment)	BT Telecoms	£42.24	LGA 1972 s.19
Jubilee Hall Broadband	XLN	£59.52	LGA 1972 s.19
Jubilee Hall Broadband	XLN	£25.20	LGA 1972 s.19

It was proposed by Cllr. Hilary Ward, seconded by Cllr. Stephen Morphey and agreed to ratify and authorise the payments listed above. All in favour.

c) To authorise the following payments:

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Clerk's Salary	Honor Houlding	£301.67	LGA 1972 s.112
Parish Online Subscription	Geosphere Ltd	£60.00	LGA 1972 s.111
Internal Audit 22-23	SALC	£202.80	LGA 1972 s.111

It was proposed by Cllr. Hilary Ward, seconded by Cllr. Paul Collins and agreed to authorise the payments listed above. All in favour.

10. Correspondence

To review the correspondence received between 15th August 2022 to 7th September 2023 and take action as appropriate.

East Suffolk Council:

c) Asset of Community Value (Right to Bid) Information Session – 28th of September 13.00 – 14.30, virtual.

ACTION: Clerk to register and attend the Right to Bid training on the 28th of September and write a report for October's meeting.

The Council agreed that there were no actions from the above dated correspondence.

ACTION: Clerk to send dementia development day training and Warm Rooms grant application to the community council for their attention.

ACTION: Clerk to register Cllr. Stephen Brett's attendance to the energy project event held on the 4th of October.

ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett's to attend the energy project event held on the 4th of October.

ACTION: Clerk to respond to the Quiet Lanes end of project requesting the Quiet Lane signs are trimmed to size.

11. Questions to the Chair/Items for the Next Agenda

Cllr. Hilary Ward reminded the Council that the daffodil bulbs awarded to the Parish from the Suffolk in Bloom Scheme are to be collected imminently and that the Council could purchase another bag of 500 bulbs so that each of the villages, Theberton and Eastbridge have their own daffodils.

ACTION: Clerk to add the purchasing of additional Daffodil or plant bulbs to the October agenda and to assess where the funds can be withdrawn from the Parish Council budget.

12. Next Meeting

To agree the date and time of the next meeting of the Council which is scheduled for Wednesday 11th October 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Jubilee Hall.

Honor Houlding
Parish Clerk
13th September 2023
Meeting ended at 9.20pm

**August 2023 Parish Report
East Suffolk Council GLI Group – Councillor Update**

Fund Launched to Help Reinforce Community Hub Network

Community groups in East Suffolk are being invited to apply for up to £30,000 in capital grant funding for upgrades and improvements to facilities. East Suffolk Council is accepting applications from local voluntary and social enterprise groups, as well as some small to medium sized businesses, for a £15,000-30,000 share in the newly launched Rural Business and Community Hub Fund (RBCHF).

The fund is part of the Government’s wider Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) and aimed at organisations that provide, or wish to provide, a multi-purpose community hub or for-public-benefit facility offering access to a range of quality, cost-effective services.

The £110million REPF was launched by the Government last September to complement the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and help to improve productivity and strengthen the rural economy and rural communities. East Suffolk was allocated £1.129m, to be delivered via two separate strands – the Rural Business and Community Hub Fund (RBCHF) and the Rural Business Investment Fund (RBIF) – to small, rural businesses and community organisations between 2023 and 2025.

Applicants could include existing village halls, local skills providers, business and co-working spaces, health, wellbeing and mental health providers, sports and recreation providers, and arts, culture and heritage providers. Applications should meet at least one of the three main priorities of net zero, small and medium-sized enterprise investments and diversification, and agriculture and farm diversification.

Prospective applicants can contact Community Action Suffolk for further support via: info@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk

Three Neighbourhood Plans Adopted

Plans for Saxmundham, Rushmere St Andrew and, Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough have all been formally adopted by East Suffolk Council.

The Rushmere St Andrew and Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough Neighbourhood Plans were adopted at a Full Council meeting on 28 June, with the Saxmundham Neighbourhood Plan adopted on 26 July. These three plans will now form part of the development plan for East Suffolk and will influence future planning applications within each neighbourhood plan area.

A neighbourhood plan gives communities the opportunity to shape development within their local areas. Neighbourhood plans are based on extensive public consultation to ensure that residents have their say on how development will take place. Plans are subject to a local referendum to ensure public support before being adopted by East Suffolk Council. Referendums for Rushmere St Andrew and, Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough took place on 4 May and for Saxmundham on 29 June.

Cllr Kay Yule, East Suffolk’s cabinet member for Planning and Coastal Management said: “Neighbourhood planning gives residents the opportunity to get directly involved in shaping their local areas, determining the location of any new development, and providing guidance for how new buildings should look. Through the hard work of these communities, these three newly adopted plans will now be required to be used by anyone making or deciding a planning application in these areas.”

Five neighbourhood plans have now been made this year, following the adoption of both the Halesworth and Oulton plans in February.

The plans can also be viewed at libraries and the Council’s Customer Services desks local to each Neighbourhood Plan area.

New Play Area in Beccles Officially Opened

A children's play area at Beccles Common has been officially reopened following the completion of refurbishment work.

Designed by Eibe play Ltd, and aimed at toddlers and juniors, the play area features a basket swing, cradle swing for toddlers, a me-to-you swing, a cargo climbing net, a toddler climbing unit with slide, and a junior climbing unit, with a climbing wall and slide.

The refurbishment has been made possible thanks to a partnership between East Suffolk Council and Beccles Town Council and an official opening took place on Friday 11 August, attended by representatives from both councils and Eibe play Ltd.

GLI Cllr Katie Graham, East Suffolk's cabinet member for Communities, Leisure and Tourism said: "This is a wonderful new facility providing modern, fun and engaging equipment for local families and visitors to enjoy. I'm delighted to see the final transformation and am sure this will continue to be popular play area for years to come."

GLI Group Meet with Forestry Commission and Anglian Water

The GLI Group recently met with Forestry Commission and Anglian Water to explore ways of protecting the outstanding natural environment of East Suffolk. East Suffolk Council and GLI Group Leader Cllr Caroline Topping is pleased that they were able to discuss important issues with both organisations. She said: "We are determined to develop and maintain a constructive dialogue with key environmental stakeholders and these two recent meetings really got the ball rolling.

"The presentation from the Forestry Commission was incredibly engaging and I am keen that we really do spread the word about the importance of tree planting and the range of grants that are available to do so.

Meanwhile the meeting with Anglian Water was also incredibly useful although I was disappointed by representatives' suggestion that sewage discharge into rivers was a low priority issue for the public. It was also interesting to that they are not statutory consultees with regards to planning applications which is a concern when it comes to the issue of ensuring appropriate supply to new developments.

These meetings mark our commitment to deliver on our campaign promises and prioritise residents, communities and the environment in everything that we do. The GLI Councillors are enthusiastic about improving quality of life across the district, and this is just the beginning - so watch this space!"

For the most up to date information regarding East Suffolk Council, please visit: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Appendix II – Cllr. Paul Collins August Energy Projects Report – September 2023

1 TEAGS – Stop Sizewell C

No further news on the SZC Development Consent Order Judicial Review appeal.

EDF have submitted an updated Coastal Processes Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (CPMMP) to East Suffolk Council to discharge requirement 12 of the Development Consent Order. It can be found at [DC/23/2660/DRR](#). A second EDF request to discharge requirement 14 has also been sent to the Marine Management Organisation.

There is also a parallel request into ESC from MMO for consultation at [DC/23/2673/CON](#) on the same CPMMP subject.

Objections to all three of these requests have been sent to ESC and MMO on the basis that the CPMMP should not be approved until a final design and positioning of the Hard and Soft Coastal Defence is approved against DCO Requirement 19.

On 17th August, myself, Stephen Brett, Bill Parker and Alison Downes led a Sizewell C Hard and Soft Coastal Defence walk with Paul Patterson (Coastal Protection East), Graham Stutely (ESC Energy Team), Tom Daly and Sarah Whitelock. We traced the last submitted plan for the Hard Coastal Defence toe and showed where it's most south-easterly point would be, out on the Sizewell B salient. This is the salient that EDF state will be eroded back to the natural Sizewell Bay embayment profile once Sizewell B stops operating. The issue is that the proposed Sizewell C HCDF/SCDF profile extends well beyond the current Sizewell B salient and thus calls into question the ability of the HCDF/SCDF design to be maintained by the currently proposed CPMMP.

Paul Patterson stated that they had concerns regarding the northern end of the defences where the permanent beach landing facility is sited as well as the defences that go inland at that point towards the SSSI crossing. He also said they had questioned why the southern end of the proposed defence has to "kick out" to the east. From memory, EDF's position was this was required to be able to manage the interface with the existing Sizewell B defences which are not seismologically sound and thus precludes an integrated link between the rock armour defence proposed for SZC and the existing SZB defence.

Paul Patterson also stated that the Marine Management Organisation had asked for an extended period of time to consider the Discharge of Requirement 14 and had been granted an extension until early in 2024. East Suffolk Council have also been granted the same extension for DoR 12.

As of this time, no final design proposal for the HCDF/SCDF has been submitted and Paul now believes this may be submitted in November.

Paul also told the group that he would be responding to the objections to the two Discharge of Requirements from both us and Together Against Sizewell C in the near future and these would be made available as an official assessment report on the planning website. I have an alert set up specifically on this DoR as well as a general search alert on all SZC DoR applications.

The request sent to the planning casework unit at the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities for these Discharge of Requirements applications to be called in has since been rejected on the basis that they do not believe that existing Planning Law allows them to call in Discharge of Requirements applications. I raised this at the DLUHC meeting reported on below.

We held an event at Fordley Hall farm, courtesy of David and Bellinda Grant, to thank and update our generous supporters on Thursday 7th September.

2 Energy Projects Cumulative Impact Group and Anglia Energy Planning Alliance

This group is urging Andrew Bowie MP to return to Suffolk to talk with local Town and Parish Councils who were unable to be present at the previous meetings arranged for his visit. A promise that he would return before parliamentary recess was missed and his officials are being vague about when this return visit might occur. A sign-up letter for Town and Parish Councils to urge the minister to return to East Suffolk has been submitted for our consideration tonight.

A separate meeting is being arranged for Town and Parish Councils to meet and have briefings from the various local groupings engaged in Scottish Power Wind farms, LionLink, Sea Link and Sizewell C for Wednesday 4 October - 6 for 6.30pm to 7.45 pm, Riverside Centre, Stratford St Andrew. Unfortunately I will not be available to attend this meeting.

3 T&E Parish Council

A response has been received and circulated from Paul Lennon at EDF regarding the Property Price Support Scheme. No responses have been received from HMG directors of the SZC projects or Andrew Bowie as part of the consultation on Community Benefits from Network Infrastructure projects.

The letter from Middleton, Kelsale cum Carlton, Westleton, Yoxford and Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Councils to EDF and Suffolk County Council about our concerns regarding EDF's plans for the B1122 and other connecting roads has been sent and a proposal to meet with EDF on Tuesday 19th September 11:00am offered.

3.1 Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities Meeting

Steve Brett and I attended a meeting (7 September) arranged by Suffolk Association of Local Councils and Suffolk County Council to discuss our experiences and issues with responding to National Strategic Infrastructure Projects such as Sizewell C, Scottish Power Renewables wind farm and National Grid interconnector projects. Present were representatives from Suffolk County Council, Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities and Saxmundham Town Council.

SALC are working with SCC on a guide for local councils on dealing with NSIPs, which I have attended previously, and DLUHC are working on ways to speed up the consenting process for NSIPs. So, the opportunity to discuss Parish and Town Council needs for assistance in these responses are timely with further statutory consultations on NSIPs about to start, although I suspect any help that does eventually arrive from central government will be too late for our current clutch of NSIPs.

In general, the consensus from those attending was that there were issues with consultations being too much of a tick box exercise with the developers both setting the goals of consultation and then meeting them in terms of documents, exhibitions and briefings. However, the quality and responsiveness of the developer to consultation and local Parish/Town Council responses needs to be better recognised and accounted for in the assessment of whether a developer has met the requirements for a successful consultation.

We pointed out the time it took for the SZC consultations to work and that despite calls for a relief road being made from the outset, it took about 8 years and three consultations before EDF agreed to modify their position and even then they chose the route that suited their needs rather than one that would have a longer lasting legacy for the area and cause less disruption, given that the initial Sizewell Link Road proposal severed all connecting roads from the south to the B1122.

It took the examination and a consultation within the examination period to force EDF to change the Pretty Road pedestrian/livestock bridge to be upgraded to a vehicular access bridge. A second consultation within the examination on the temporary desalination facility was also discussed alongside the issue of potable water availability for operation. Michael Moll also commented that the pipeline that Northumbrian Water will need to construct, both for SZC and to satisfy other domestic and local needs will probably end up as another NSIP.

Considering all the above and the fact that there is still no final design for the coastal defence, shows how inadequate the SZC consultations and the DCO application was. Preliminary designs for the coastal defence were only provided to the examination after a number of requests from a number of Parish and Town Councils and NGO to the Examining Authority during the preliminary scoping of the examination. I stated that, in my opinion, PINS should have rejected the application in the first instance and forced EDF to resolve these issues before the application could be resubmitted for examination. It is shocking that over 10 years of statutory consultations had resulted in such a lamentable and inadequate DCO application. It seems that PINS are reluctant to reject applications where the tick box exercise has been judged a success (see comments above).

On the subject of the various interconnector projects, we pointed out that the lack of joined up thinking between National Grid Ventures and National Grid Electricity Transmission, as well as their reluctance to do so, was outrageous. We also noted the totally ridiculous proposals for landfall sites given in the non-statutory consultation exercises

showed that those who proposed these had neither made visits to the areas being suggested and did not seem to understand the symbols on Ordnance Survey maps for swamps/marsh areas.

There were discussions about how Parish and Town Councils need additional practical help in responding to NSIPs and the need for access to expertise in various technical fields probably from a central resource pool of some sort, but without any costs landing with Parishes as their income simply would not support having to pay out of the current precepts. It was noted that developers are required to pay towards county and district costs both during the consultation and examination process as well as for the implementation/construction stage.

4 Scottish Power DCO Examination

The appeal by SASES is now set to be heard in December. A decision is awaited on SEAS JR hearing.

5 LionLink (formerly EuroLink)

The interim Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Summary report contains little in the way of surprises. There is general approval of the proposal to further boost interconnectivity with the continent to allow electricity flows in both directions and the proposal for the Multi-Purpose Interconnector out to sea is welcomed. There appears to be a belief that this can reduce land-based infrastructure but the reality is that converter stations are still required along with cable corridors from the landfall site.

There is general agreement that the various projects (LionLink and Sea Link in particular) should coordinate their landfall sites and cable corridors to the converter station site and the subsequent connection to the proposed Friston substation.

New proposals for landfall options at Walberswick and north of Southwold are due to have a new non-statutory consultation run between 8th September and Friday 3rd November with exhibitions at Reydon (22 September), Walberswick (23 September) and Leiston (6 October). Also two webinar dates 17th and 18th October.

The NGV LionLink expectation is for Statutory consultations starting in 2024 with a DCO application in 2025 and decision in 2026.

I will be away for the Leiston Exhibition so will register for the webinar on 17th October.

6 Hydrogen East

This item has now been added following a comment by Michael Moll (SCC) at the DLUHC about a potential Hydrogen pipeline between Lowestoft/Great Yarmouth and Felixstowe via the Sizewell area.

Felixstowe have ambitions for significant hydrogen usage as part of their bid to become a Freeport and there were announcements a couple of years ago about an agreement between EDF and Port of Felixstowe about this.

At this point in time, these are very early general proposals and papers paving the way for electrolyzers possibly offshore, at Lowestoft/Great Yarmouth area and of course following up on EDF's proposals for SZC heat assisted electrolysis as well as heat assisted Direct Air Carbon Capture.

Hydrogen pipelines could also extend up to the Bacton Gas Terminal, should proposals to add up to 10% Hydrogen into the existing gas network be accepted as part of the Net Zero strategy.

As far as we are concerned, any pipeline would probably be yet another NSIP that would potentially impact the area if it were to connect to Hydrogen generation using heat and electricity generated by SZC. Whether the electrolysis would be done close to Sizewell or somewhere more remote, for example Land East of Eastlands Industrial Estate or Rendlesham, there would also be a requirement for a pipeline to supply the "waste" or "excess steam generator" heat to the electrolyser location.

More information can be found at [Hydrogen East](#) and I've attached one of their report papers giving some more information for those who might be interested. I've asked Michael Moll if there is any further information he can provide to me.

I will continue to monitor these efforts and report when changes or updates are available.

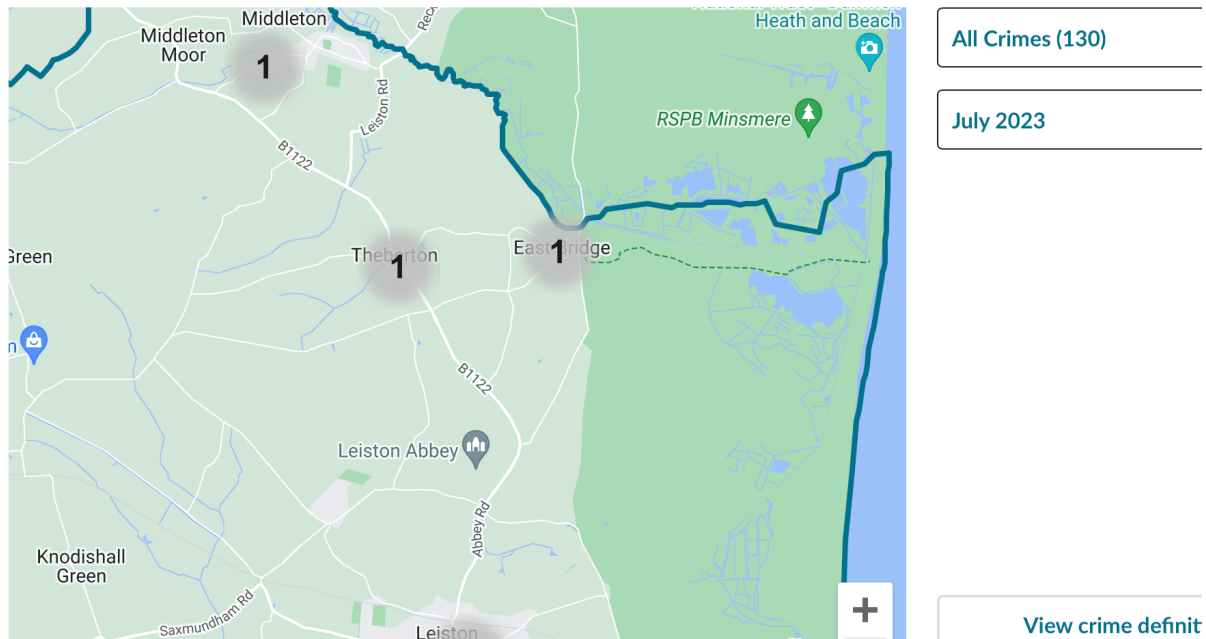
7 Nautilus and Sea Link Interconnectors

No further information although it now seems highly unlikely Nautilus will landfall in this area.

8 EDF SZC B1122 planning meeting

Draft minutes have been circulated and another Theberton specific meeting date is yet to be proposed. A date for meeting will all the local Parishes over the joint letter to EDF and SCC has been set for Tuesday 19th September.

Appendix III - Police Crime Report – Theberton and Eastbridge July 2023



Theberton

1 - Criminal Damage and Arson

Eastbridge

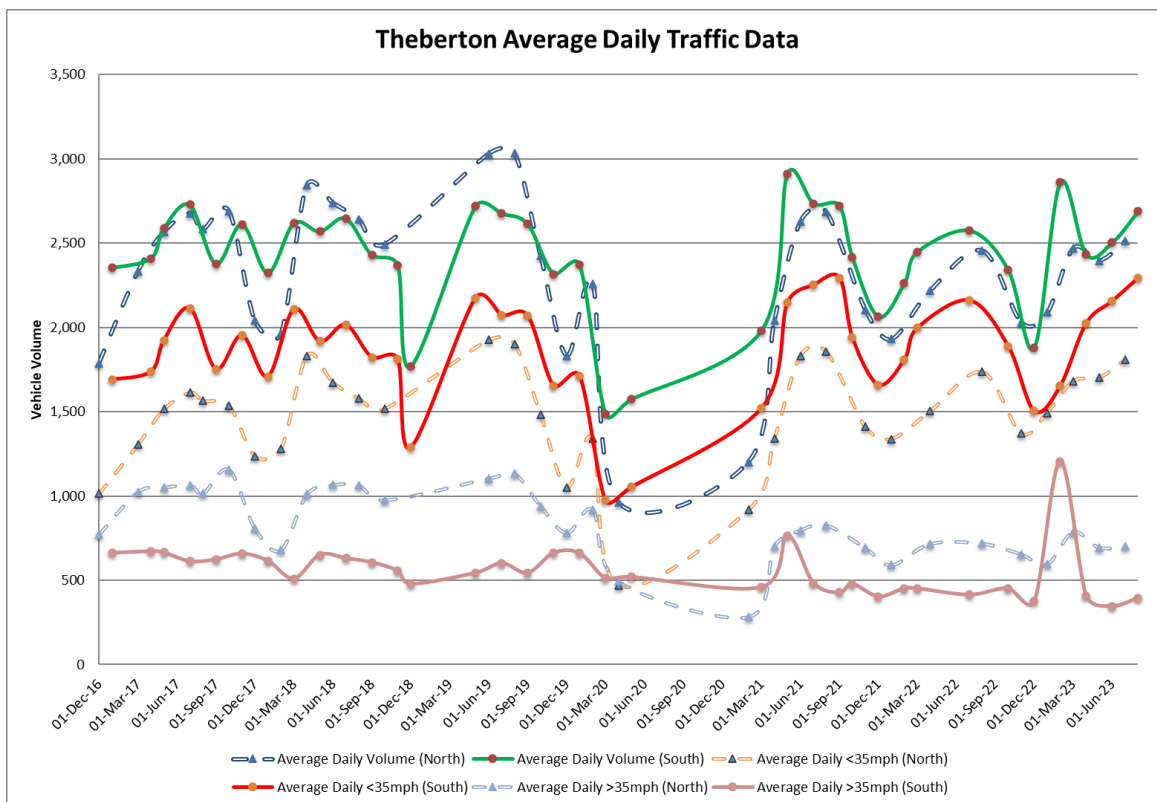
1 – Violence and Sexual Offence

Theberton Speed Indicator Device Report 13th September 2023

The speed indicator device has been operational for sixty-nine ~20-day periods since 20th December 2016. It is placed at one end of the village or other at ~30-day intervals.

Traffic volumes in the period since March 2021 are back to normal and the long-term averages for those exceeding 35mph is now **36.1%** from north and **23.4%** from south.

The **85th percentile speed*** is **40.0mph** from North and **37.6mph** from South when they enter the village. These averages are over the whole period from December 2016.



SID Start Date	23-Apr-22	24-Jul-22	18-Aug-22	21-Oct-22	20-Nov-22	20-Dec-22	19-Jan-23	18-Feb-23	20-Mar-23	15-Apr-23	19-May-23	17-Jun-23	18-Jul-23	17-Aug-23
Average Daily Volume (North)	2,220		2,456		2,030		2,089		2,470		2,397		2,513	
Average Daily Volume (South)		2,576		2,342		1,879		2,860		2,434		2,504		2,688
Total Vehicles (North)	33,306		49,122		40,605		39,686		46,937		45,543		47,740	
Total Vehicles (South)		46,362		44,493		35,702		54,345		46,245		42,564		51,079
Total Vehicles <35mph (North)	22,548		34,741		27,495		28,371		31,971		32,329		34,371	
Total Vehicles <35mph (South)		38,899		35,882		28,589		31,428		38,483		36,660		43,580
Total Vehicles >35mph (North)	10,758		14,381		13,110		11,315		14,966		13,214		13,369	
Total Vehicles >35mph (South)		7,463		8,611		7,113		22,917		7,762		5,904		7,499
Average Daily <35mph (North)	1,503		1,737		1,375		1,493		1,682		1,702		1,809	
Average Daily <35mph (South)		2,161		1,888		1,505		1,654		2,025		2,157		2,294
Average Daily >35mph (North)	717		719		655		596		788		695		704	
Average Daily >35mph (South)		415		453		374		1,206		409		347		395
85th percentile speed North (mph)	39.2		38.7		39.2		38.4		38.9		38.6		38.3	
85th percentile speed South (mph)		35.5		36.7		36.9		35.9		35.8		34.8		34.9
% <35mph (North)	67.7%		70.7%		67.7%		71.5%		68.1%		71.0%		72.0%	
% <35mph (South)		83.9%		80.6%		80.1%		57.8%		83.2%		86.1%		85.3%
% >35mph (North)	32.3%		29.3%		32.3%		28.5%		31.9%		29.0%		28.0%	
% >35mph (South)		16.1%		19.4%		19.9%		42.2%		16.8%		13.9%		14.7%

*The 85th Percentile is indicative of the speed that the majority of road users are travelling at.