

Closure of B1125 North of the Water Tower Junction WPC Meeting 8 December 2025

The WPC is being asked to give its agreement to the closure of the B1125 north of the Water Tower Junction with the B1387. This closure would be enacted by Suffolk County Highways in the form of an Experimental Traffic Regulations Order (ETRO) for an initial period of 6 months after which it can be made long-term.

This scheme was made necessary by the construction of the SZC nuclear plant and its associated infrastructure. Some 10,000 workers and thousands of HGVs and smaller commercial vehicles will be using the A12 and associated roads to access park and rides and the site in Leiston each day. Without the closure, the B1125 would become extraordinarily dangerous to cross coming in and out of Walberswick because of the number of additional vehicles and their speed. It would also serve as the main rat run for those trying to avoid the A12.

When the closure is complete, access to Blythburgh will be from the north and it will not be possible for vehicles to go as far south as the B1387. Coming out of Walberswick on the B1387, it will not be possible to go north using the B1125; access north will be on the A12. Bicycles and pedestrians will be able to go north to Blythburgh on the B1125 as will emergency vehicles, if necessary.

This scheme was developed by the B1125 Working Group which was convened as a condition of SZC's DCO. Since its inception, Cllr Bassinette has represented Walberswick at its many meetings. The WPC has been kept up to date with periodic reports, the most recent of which were in October and November, 2025. Whilst nothing will be able to mitigate for the profoundly negative impact SZC will have on Walberswick residents and visitors for the 10-15 year duration of construction, the scheme will help address some of the worst traffic and safety impacts that will be felt at the northern end of the B1125 and therefore deserves to be supported. These northern measures will be aided by other traffic calming and limitation measures at Westleton and Middleton at the southern end of the B1125.

Important concessions made during the discussions with SZC and Suffolk Highways within the Working Group were agreement to improve the B1387 as a condition of closure of the B1125 and improvements made at the B1387/A12 junction. We have also received a commitment, in writing, that the work on the B1387 will be completed prior to the closure of the B1125. SZC and Suffolk Highways have also committed to keep under review the B1387/A12 intersection with the idea that further widening and safety improvements may be necessary going forward as traffic increases.

The attached PPT was produced by SZC and provides details on what the scheme will look like at the key junctions, the new signage and additional details on the ETRO process.