

Good evening. I have been asked to make this presentation tonight as the Councillor delegated to represent the Parish Council and the village on Sizewell and other energy projects proposed for our area.

I have to admit that it has been a huge learning process for me. I think so many of us believed for years that it wouldn't really happen. But Sizewell C is now upon us. The Walberswick Parish Council, in common with at least another 60 town and parish councils in this area have taken a stance against the development of Sizewell C. Suffolk County Council has come out against as have hundreds of local businesses, police, emergency services, the RSPB, Suffolk wildlife trust, and thousands of other organisations and individuals. Unfortunately, both our MP and East Suffolk Council are supporters.

As a Council, we have been participating in the consultations and in the Planning Inspectorate process. Our input is posted on the Sizewell C section of the Walberswick website. I personally have been attending and participating in many of the Planning Inspectorate hearings (via Zoom). What I have learnt is how colossal Sizewell C would be and how destructive it would be during construction and potentially for the entire time it is operating. This is because Sizewell C is nothing like existing nuclear stations. It is using unproven technology that is many times larger, more difficult and much longer to build, costs many multiples more, requires more space both above and below ground, and poses much bigger threats to sea life during operation from the water it has to suck out of the sea for cooling and for the coastal defenses to try to protect these two gigantic reactors from our eroding coast.

I have also learnt that the environmental impacts are monumental. This has many reasons, but mostly it is because EDF doesn't have enough land to build these two reactors and therefore is proposing to take much of the Sizewell beach, as well as chunks out of the AONB and the areas of Special Scientific interest (SSSI), and farmland and fens in this area and elsewhere for the power plant and for all the extra development, like car and lorry parks and holding areas. When they say that they are not taking any of RSPB Minsmere, that is true – but if the largest construction site in all of Europe is right up against Minsmere, it has much the same outcome in terms of loss of habitat. This will be true for all the wildlife areas all the way up through our Walberswick marshes.

In terms of our own day to day lives, there will be hundreds of HGVs and thousands of cars added to the roads everyday for the next 15 years. This will be on the A12 from north and south and on the B1125 from Blythburgh. There will be almost daily movements of equipment that is so big that it cannot fit on a regular HGV and will move from Lowestoft port down the A12 to the B1122 and on to the Sizewell site accompanied by police. Moving these loads on our narrow roads mean that two way traffic will need to be halted as these vehicles make their trip. You will all have seen the details of the 24/7 2500 car movements and hundreds of coaches in and out Darsham every day at the proposed park and ride site.

There has been much said about creating local jobs. But, in fact, many of these 'jobs' are time-limited tasks and local means for those on a 90 minute commute. Most of the skilled workers will be moved here from Hinkley C. And the loss of jobs in tourism and hospitality and the difficulty for everyone else to get to and from work, school and everything else needs to be balanced against these promises.

Finally, for financing, it is being proposed that Government add a nuclear tax to every energy bill in the country for the length of construction to pay for building Sizewell C and, thereafter, to pay the high rates associated with this energy source.

EDF's latest proposal is that they will need to build a desalination plant at Sizewell because there is no potable water at the building site. Desalination is one of the most carbon intensive, environmentally harmful and expensive ways to get water and is used in only the most arid places of the world. The desalination plant would create some 6 tons of Co2 every day. Prior to that being built, they are proposing bringing 40 tankers of water coming from Barsham everyday. No one has said how much this will add to the £20 billion price tag which is now understood to be an underestimate.

So now that I have completely depressed everyone, what can be done?

First, all is not lost and there is still every possibility for stopping this. How?

The Parish Council will continue to participate directly and in coordination with other Councils to make the case against approval. Individuals can and should also get involved as that will be the best way for Government to take notice. There is, for example, an event at Sizewell Beach on 19 September where organisers are hoping to get large numbers of people to recreate the area of proposed sea defense on the Sizewell Beach. Details can be found on the Stop Sizewell C website and also on our village website. You should write to Therese Coffey, to the Business Secretary and Chancellor explaining your objection to building Sizewell and also to being forced to finance it. Other ideas, including petitions and the like, can be found on the Stop Sizewell C website. There is an active group in the village organised by Tina Gaudoin and Peter Wagstaff. They have been organising, amongst other things, the Stop Sizewell signs around the village and the excellent flyer showing the park and ride.

I will have to finish here to keep within my time. But please do look at the Sizewell section of the website and please get directly involved.

Thank you.