

## Report to the Annual Parish Meeting on Sizewell C

11 May 2022

To get everyone's attention, let me start with a few facts about EPR nuclear reactors. There are 4 places where they are trying to build these and none is a happy story.

1. Finland's plant was 3 times over budget and took 17 years to build instead of 4 as projected. One month after turning it on in March 2022, they had to turn it off and instead of producing power by July, it has now been pushed off again until September.
2. The Flamanville nuclear project in France is over 10 years behind schedule, and the price has quadrupled. No start date is in sight.
3. EDF and China Nuclear's EPR reactor in China had operated for less than 3 years when it had to be shut down in August 2021 because of safety issues. Ten months later, no word when it might be safe to start again.
4. Hinkley Point C in Somerset has now overrun its budget by £4 billion (from £18 to 22-23 Billion) and is already behind schedule. They recently pushed back commissioning by another year.

And yet, our national government, our MP and East Suffolk District Council think it's a great idea to support building Sizewell C in a location grossly less suitable than all of these other plants and with a proposed construction period of a minimum of 12 years. Its price, at a whopping £20 billion, is still less than what is being spent on Hinkley Point C today which means it is practically guaranteed to cost much more and take far longer than predicted.

This should indicate that from the perspective of our national energy security, Sizewell C makes absolutely no sense whether or not you favour nuclear energy. For us locally, and for Suffolk coast's AONB and RSPB Minsmere, Sizewell C is nothing less than catastrophic.

So what happens now?

First, it is essential that everyone stays engaged and fights this thing. There are many decisions to be made and many ways to register your views.

First off, the planning application is with the Cabinet Minister for BEIS, Kwasi Kwarteng. He may take a decision on this as early as 25 May. You will have likely seen that the Government's energy strategy did not include onshore wind because "local communities don't like it". And yet, this same strategy had no compunction of forcing Sizewell C on all of us. To address this, Walberswick Parish Council has signed on to a letter with about 40 other local councils to Minister Kwarteng pointing out this hypocrisy. We have also pointed out that Minister Kwarteng is required to act impartially on the planning application and yet he has already announced that he will provide £100 million of tax-payer money to EDF for Sizewell C. We have asked in this letter that he reconsider whether he is able to properly fulfil his duty. We have also suggested that he owes it to the people of Suffolk Coastal to meet with us, an offer that he has consistently refused despite coming to Suffolk to meet with EDF. Everyone can help drive this message home by writing to Minister Kwarteng stating their objection to Sizewell C.

Second, BEIS have asked EDF to clarify a number of things in their planning application including having no potable water for the construction or operation of the plant, the refusal to mitigate any of the transportation issues until construction is many years underway, and some of the detrimental environmental impacts including on species such as the Marsh Harrier. EDF provided responses and BEIS is now asking interested parties to respond (albeit giving us only until 23 May to do so!). We will be providing a response on behalf of WPC, but again, it would be good if others would write. We need to amplify our voices.

Third, closer to home and most direct, there is a protest march organised for 15 May from Leiston to the site. You can get details on the Stop Sizewell C website. Please – we need as many people as possible to show up and help drive home this message that we don't want Sizewell C.

Finally, if this awful project is permitted then we will do what we can to try to limit the negative impacts that it will have on our community. Most immediately, the WPC is working with Suffolk Highways, engineers provided by EDF, Westeton and Blythburgh Parish Councils to try to mitigate the expected congestion and speeding risks that will come from the thousands of additional cars and vans that are going to be using the B1125 everyday to get to Sizewell and to rat run off the A12. We will keep you updated through the Parish Council and the village website. We are also very grateful to the Village News for being so accommodating in carrying updates.

Having now delivered the most depressing report of the evening, I had better stop. I will end by saying that it is not too late to Stop Sizewell C, that we still have everything to fight for and therefore its super important that as many people as possible get involved and stay involved.

Thank you.