



9 am to 4 pm Mondays to Fridays

13 March 2019

Dear EDF Energy

Sizewell C Stage 3 Consultation

On behalf of Felixstowe Town Council, thank you for inviting feedback on the Stage 3 Consultation on the proposals for a new nuclear power station at Sizewell.

In accordance with our response to the Stage 2 consultation, Felixstowe Town Council's main interest in the proposals centres on the likely effects on road and rail capacity.

We note and fully agree with a preference towards a primary rail-led freight plan, due to the environmental and traffic advantages this would offer over a road-led strategy. However, we understand that the possibility of such a strategy is dependent on third-parties – such as Network Rail – supporting this outcome.

In particular, the Council notes that all of the work with Network Rail refers only to concerns with those issues on the East Suffolk line east of Ipswich, which have been extensively researched. However, no evidence is presented that Network Rail and / or the rail freight companies are able to provide the necessary capacity west or south of Ipswich for the 5 train paths required.

In many other contexts concerning both passenger and freight capacity in the Eastern Region of Network Rail, we are aware of severe limitations on additional train paths being available.

It will therefore be essential that EDF are able to provide clear evidence, in conjunction with Network Rail and the rail freight companies, that:

- a) the additional 5 new paths required from the aggregate source sites yet to be identified can be made available on the appropriate time scales, and without prejudice to the wider short and longer term strategic needs for rail capacity in the region. Those include both the increased passenger train frequencies and speeds committed to by the Greater Anglia franchise, and the ability for the Port of Felixstowe to progressively make beneficial use of the approximately 10 new paths about to become available between Felixstowe and Ipswich by the almost complete dualling of the Felixstowe branch line in the Trimley area; and,
- b) EDF have fully investigated acquiring for Sizewell C the two currently existing paths allocated to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, thereby reducing the overall capacity retirement beyond Ipswich to 3 paths.

Should a rail-led strategy be considered unviable, the Town Council reluctantly accepts the road-led option.

Having considered the two freight management facility options being newly promoted at this stage, Felixstowe Town Council is concerned that the impact on the A14 be minimised insofar as possible.

As such, we consider the proposed facility at Innocence Farm to be unacceptable, given the requirement for HGVs to travel eastwards along the A14 to return towards the A12 and the inevitable intensification of traffic along this route. It is anticipated that this would be further exacerbated by the projected 40% increase of RO-RO traffic from the Port of Felixstowe. Additionally, the Port of Felixstowe is anticipating continued growth with consequential increases in both HGV and other service traffic. There is also an existing planning permission for a major new logistics park at the Port itself, and proposals in the emerging Local Plan for a further new facility at Innocence Farm. This also needs to be considered in the context of the Local Plan's proposals for housing developments over the next 18+ years and the associated implications on domestic traffic.

Therefore, if no other appropriate location can be found, either along the A12 or west of the Seven Hills junction, we would consider Option 1 (Seven Hills) to be preferable to Option 2 (Innocence Farm).

Such a move would undoubtedly require appropriate improvements to the A1156/Felixstowe Road junction. Moreover, as previously stated, the Town Council believes that cumulative impacts relating to Sizewell C and other developments will necessitate a significant upgrade of the Seven Hills junction before work can commence. We believe this would require additional lanes and full intelligent traffic light signalling.

We hope these comments are helpful and would welcome further updates as your proposals take shape.

Yours sincerely,



Ash Tadjrishi
Town Clerk
Felixstowe Town Council