

DRAFT Meeting Note



Northern Transport Forum

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| Meeting Type: | Northern Transport Forum | Meeting held on: | Wednesday 7 th August 2024 |
| Chair: | Brain Stewart, Chair | Council Representatives: | Cllr Christine Redgrave, Darsham Parish Council Cllr Andrew Turner, Westleton Parish Council Cllr Sam Seddon representing Peasenhall Parish Council Cllr Matthew Saunders, Blythburgh Parish Council Cllr Paul Collins, Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council Cllr Sarah Courage substituting for Cllr Traci Weaver, Kelsale-cum-Carlton Parish Council Cllr Nicky Corbett, Leiston Town Council Cllr Josie Bassinette, Walberswick Parish Council Cllr Charles Macdowell, Middleton-cum-Fordley Parish Council Cllr Alexander Nicoll, Suffolk County Council Cllr Paul Ashton, East Suffolk Council Steve Merry, Suffolk County Council, Highways Naomi Goold, East Suffolk Council Carolyn Barnes, East Suffolk Council |
| Sizewell C Attendees: | Richard Bull, DCO Lead Marjorie Barnes, Head of READ Team David Peacop, Site Operations Director Tim Newton, Site Security Manager Richard Knight, Senior Community Relations Manager Stephen Keighley, Rail Manager Jez Porter, SPM Associated Development – Highways Zoe Botten, Community Relations Manager Darren Benford Brown, Community Safety Officer | | |
| External Attendees: | Rowland Stepney, Network Rail Stephen Deaville, Network Rail Robyn Evans, SEC Newgate Drew Aspinwall, SEC Newgate | | |

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Meeting note and matters arising from Northern Transport Forum (8th May 2024)
3. Report back from: Main Development Site Forum and Southern Transport Forum
4. Sizewell C Project Update and Overview
5. Road and Rail Updates
6. Traffic and Transport Updates
7. Q&A via Town and Parish Council Representative
8. Chair’s concluding remarks
9. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 6th November 2024

DRAFT Meeting Note – 07/08/2024

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| 1 | Welcome and Introductions – (Chair) | | |



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| 1.01 | <p>Brian Stewart, 'The Chair', opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.</p> <p>It was noted that Cllr Sara Courage, who recently joined Kelsale Parish Council, was deputising for Cllr Traci Weaver.</p> <p>The Chair also welcomed the Sizewell C team presenting at the Forum: Jez Porter, Tim Newton, David Peacop, Richard Knight, Marjorie Barnes, Richard Bull, Stephen Keighley, and Rowland Stepney representing Network Rail.</p> | | |
| 1.02 | The Chair then ran through the meeting agenda. | | |
| 2 | Meeting note and matters arising from Northern Transport Forum (8th May 2024) – Chair | | |
| 2.01 | The Chair said the SZC team have worked hard to ensure the clarity of the note, but made the point that it is a meeting note rather than a minute. The Chair moved the notes for their accuracy and this was seconded by Cllr Matthew Saunders. | | |
| 2.02 | <p>Cllr Paul Collins said in 3.02 there was an action on Richard Bull regarding the review of attendee councils. He said a letter and terms of reference was supposed to be made available to himself and other members of the forum but that nothing has happened on this.</p> <p>Richard Bull (RB) said there were two actions from this: one being the formalisation of the agreement between SZC and the two councils that Brian Stewart would be taking on the role of Chair on an ongoing basis, and the second action was to amend the terms of reference to make this clear. He said both actions have been completed.</p> <p>ACTION: RB said the team would re-send the terms of reference to Cllr Collins.</p> | RB | |
| 2.03 | <p>Cllr Josie Basinette reported that she is not on the email distribution list for the Northern Transport Forum and did not receive any of the details of the meeting.</p> <p>AFTERNOTE: It has since been confirmed that Cllr Basinette is on the distribution list for Northern Transport Forum communications.</p> | | |
| 2.04 | <p>Item 2.02 – The letter regarding the independent chair was signed after the meeting by all parties concerned.</p> <p>Item 3.02 – The Chair had listed a number of errors in the previous meeting note and said that these errors had been noted.</p> <p>Item 3.15 – Cllr Alexander Nicoll reported that he had not received a schedule for the transport-related Working Groups. Richard Knight confirmed that this had been circulated to members.</p> <p>Item 7.05 – A link to the DCO Transport Assessment was shared with forum members as requested.</p> <p>Item 8.18 – Cllr Charles Macdowell had reported that Middleton Parish Council have a request for a 20mph speed limit. As requested, Steve Merry provided a written response to Middleton Parish Council regarding how the proposed 30mph speed limit is enforced. This was sent via an email on 29th July 2024.</p> | | |



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| | <p>Item 8.21/22/23 – It was noted that Stephen Keighley / Network Rail would provide an update at the meeting on the safety of pedestrians and Darsham Level Crossing.</p> <p>Item 8.28 – Cllr Andrew Candler asked whether part of the Northern Park and Ride could be used for people using the rail station. It was noted that this would be covered in the meeting.</p> <p>Item 9.05 – It was agreed that police funding would be discussed at the meeting. AFTERNOTE: The Deed of Obligation sets out the funding arrangements for Suffolk Constabulary resourcing throughout SZC construction.</p> <p>Item 10.05 – It was confirmed that the B1122 report on works earlier in the year would be delivered later this year, with an update at the next forum.</p> <p>Item 10.09 – It was confirmed that David Peacop would provide an update on the NPR access time at the meeting.</p> <p>Item 10.10 – It was noted that David Peacop would provide a sketch at the meeting to illustrate how people will be attending site from the local network.</p> <p>Item 10.12 – It was confirmed that David Peacop would provide an update on schedules for the SLR at the meeting.</p> <p>Item 10.14 – The Chair said David Peacop would update members at the meeting on the predicted numbers for traffic in Leiston in the early years.</p> | | |
| 2.05 | There were no further comments and the meeting note was agreed. | | |
| 3 | Report back from: Main Development Site Forum and Southern Transport Forum – (Richard Knight) | | |
| 3.01 | Richard Knight (RK) gave an update on the most recent Main Development Site Forum (16 July 2025) and Southern Transport Forum (15 May 2024). | | |
| 3.02 | <p>Main Development Site Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MDSF meeting covered updates regarding the overall works on the main site and the project. The main points were: A further East Suffolk wide community meeting will take place on Wednesday 9 October at the High Lodge in Darsham. The community fund is now open and is administered by the Community Foundation. The Community Foundation has held a number of ‘meet the funder’ events. Updates were given on the works which are on-going to establish the site: footpath diversions are starting; initial earthworks and trials have started; Ancillary Construction Area (ACA) development and office opening soon; archaeology continues across the site and near completion on the ACA; ecology and landscaping works; UXO disposal; training facility opened; drainage works (internal); site access enabling; rail enabling works. Details on road improvements including speed camera implementation and rail improvements were also outlined. | | |



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project confirmed that the ACA has opened and confirmed that the caravan park at the proposed site will no longer be going ahead. Further detail on the Public Rights of Way / footpaths diversion were also outlined by Steve Mannings including an outline on the enhancements being proposed for Wild Aldhurst. There was a further outline of green space improvements to Leiston common. | | |
| 3.03 | <p>Southern Transport Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The last Northern Transport Forum was quickly followed by the Sothern Transport Forum on Wednesday 15 May 2024 at The Riverside Centre, Stratford St Andrew. Attendees were welcomed by independent chair Brian Stewart before a project update and overview was shared by Marjorie Barnes, which included details of the key milestones and progress of the project. Steve Merry from Suffolk County Council reiterated the purpose and provided an overview of the Transport Review Group, and offered guidance as to where the data can be located on the East Suffolk Council website. https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/national-infrastructure-and-energy-projects/sizewell-c-nuclear-power-station/governance-groups/ The Site Operations and Delivery Leads provided updates on the Freight Management Facility, Southern Park and Ride, Two Village By-pass, and A12 Improvement schemes, with a commitment to attend additional parish council meeting once at the detailed design stages. The forum welcomed Daniel Fisk and Stephen Deaville from Network Rail to support Stephen Keighley, Sizewell C's Senior Project Manager for Rail. An overview was given including information on impact mitigation measures and level crossing upgrades with a focus to improve safety and the rail infrastructure. As with all forums, members are encouraged to pre submit questions from their communities. Themes included HGV movements, Traffic Incident Management Plan arrangements, rail line works and signage. | | |
| 3.04 | The meeting notes are located on the East Suffolk Council website. | | |
| 4 | Sizewell C Project Update and Overview – (Marjorie Barnes) | | |
| 4.01 | <p>Project Update Marjorie Barnes (MB) gave an update on the project.</p> <p>After starting formal construction this year, the project continues to move forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orwell Logistics Park has been secured as the new location for Sizewell C's Freight Management Facility (FMF), which will ensure a controlled pattern of deliveries to Sizewell C, enabling reduced movements during peak or sensitive hours. Key contracts have been signed Sizewell C reached another significant milestone signing major contracts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walter Tosto, a leading global player in the manufacturing of top-quality, high-pressure equipment and vessels. The multi-million pound contract with the Italian company is for the supply of critical heat exchangers for the Nuclear Island. Celeros Flow Technology, a global leader in flow control systems having previously worked with HPC on the provision of nuclear pumps. | | |



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| 4.02 | <p>Community Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enquiries this month – 92 July to date 1167 enquiries YTD – 45% of enquires are of a positive sentiment (with 40% neutral and 15% negative) Enquiries this month have maintained a positive focus on jobs, noise mitigation, accommodation and supply chain For July - 52% of enquires are of a positive sentiment (with 33% neutral and 15% negative) A small number of complaints regarding HGV parking which was addressed. | | |
| 4.03 | <p>Community Engagement MB outlined the work the team is undertaking in supporting the project and community.</p> <p>The team have sent mailings to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly wide-load updates to subscribers. Eligible residents in Darsham for Noise Mitigation Scheme. Eligible residents in Farnham for Noise Mitigation Scheme. <p>Sizewell C Community Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Sizewell C Community Fund has launched – grant criteria is available from the Suffolk Community Foundation. | | |
| 4.04 | MB outlined the forum schedule and mentioned the additional Community Forum (9 October 2024) which has been added to the schedule following feedback. | | |
| 4.05 | <p>Sizewell Creative MB outlined the events that Sizewell Creative has been supporting across the county this summer.</p> | | |
| 5 | Road and Rail Updates – (David Peacop, Stephen Keighley, Rowland Stepney) | | |
| 5.01 | <p>David Peacop (DP) gave an update on roads.</p> <p>Main Development Site Works Site establishment continuing including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Footpath diversions Initial Earthworks and Trials Ancillary Construction Area (ACA) development and Office Opening Archaeology Ecology and Landscaping works UXO disposal Training Facility opened Drainage works (internal) Site access enabling Rail enabling works | | |
| 5.02 | <p>Site Delivery – Off-site Infrastructure An update was given on the off-site infrastructure delivery.</p> | | |
| 5.03 | Countywide Highways Signage | | |



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| | DP said direction location signs are all in place at present. He said some signs are being replaced in various plans and SZC are working with Steve Merry on how to make them permanent over the next few months. | | |
| 5.04 | Traffic Routing Around Leiston DP said local traffics flows had changed following the opening of the new ACA offices. He gave assurance that SZC will continue to route traffic on Lovers Lane and not through Leiston, and that they will be policing this. | | |
| 5.05 | Northern Park and Ride Early works Q3-4 2024 DP said the drawings will be updated as the design develops and outlined the timings of the early works. He explained that there are a lot of packages which are out to procurement, either in design, design build, or construction, and committed to updating the forum members on these as they come through. Q3-24: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilities diversions (Openreach) • Temporary Site perimeter Fencing Q4-24: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary site Access (for Arch. Works) • Archaeology (ca. 3-months) 2025 onwards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roundabout works (Q1-25) • Main Works (Q2-25 till Q3-26) General traffic arrangements upon operation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access route to Northern Park and Ride and Willow Marsh Lane from A12 • Gated access for agriculture • No right turn into Park and Ride from Willow Marsh Lane • No left turn on to Willow Marsh lane for vehicles exiting park and ride. | | |
| 5.06 | Yoxford Roundabout: Early Works Q2-Q4 2024 Pre-Construction Activities at Yoxford Roundabout include: Middleton Moor Spur; Vegetation Management; Archaeology Mitigation; Site Security & Fencing | | |
| 5.07 | Sizewell Link Road: Early Works Q2-Q4 2024 Pre-Construction Activities at Sizewell Link Road include: Middleton Moor Spur; Vegetation Management; Archaeology Mitigation; Site Security & Fencing | | |
| 5.08 | Main Development Site Roads: Early works Q3-Q4 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green accesses – used for access to main sites for pre-construction & construction activities • Red accesses –used for pre-construction activities including archaeology, ecology & fencing • Vegetation Clearance – indicative locations of clearance to be completed ahead of works in-line with ecological windows and seasonality. | | |



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| 5.09 | <p>Driver Rules The Driver Rules information pack provides a guide to the high standards and practices to be upheld by Sizewell C. It covers elements such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driver induction • Delivery vehicle tracking • Sizewell C HGV routes • Sizewell C delivery times • Freight Management Facility • Abnormal Indivisible Load (AILs) protocol • Protocols during traffic incidents • Delivery driver rules. | | |
| 5.10 | <p>DP outlined details on the weekly delivery coordination meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held between SZC Freight Management Team and all Contractor Management on SZC Project • Coordination & Planning of all road freight deliveries to ensure compliance and smooth flow into all project areas • Discussing during forum of any ongoing complaints or non-compliance to seek resolution amongst all Contractors to prevent further road freight infractions • Ensuring that all road freight compliance is met or requiring improvement where identified is lacking. | | |
| 5.11 | <p>Live Tracking of Road Freight via DMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each delivery is designated with a unique booking identifier. • Any delivery vehicle seen routing off the permitted routes are easily identified and remedial action can take place. | | |
| 5.12 | <p>SZC Driver Control Processes – planned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic delivery driver information pack – due to commence August 2024 • Telematic tracking – due to commence August 2024 • Delivery driver inductions – due to commence August 2024 • Issue of SZC HGV & LGV numbered identification stickers – due to commence August 2024 • Construction of holding area for HGVs in South Plaza – due to commence October 2024 • Freight Management Facility (FMF) – due to commence January 2025 | | |
| 5.13 | <p>DCO Reduced Speed Limits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B1122 May 2024 • Limits B1122, Lovers Lane, Sizewell Gap • DP said Sizewell Gap is a key health and safety issue for the SZC team. He said there have been quite a few issues with the 40mph speed limit as it is unlikely to comply with guidance for a permanent limit. | | |
| 5.14 | <p>Average Speed Cameras Average speed camera enforcement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B1122 from Yoxford to Eastbridge Road / main site access • B1125 through Westleton | | |



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DP said SZC are working with others, including Highways England, to get this in place and the target date is Q1 2025. | | |
| 5.15 | <p>Vehicle Messaging Signs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site 1: Blythburgh VMS Sign relocated on A12, north of River Blyth overbridge Site 2: Darsham VMS Sign installed on A12, near junction with The Street. <p>DP noted that there was an issue with the location of one of the signs. Cllr Matthew Saunders confirmed that this is now in the right place. DP said that if people raise issues, the SZC team will listen and take action.</p> | | |
| 5.16 | <p>Minor Roads Schemes</p> <p>DP said SZC are looking at what can be done sooner due to procurement. The provisional delivery programme of the minor road schemes includes:</p> <p>Typical improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New and enhanced pedestrian footways and crossings New road surfacing Village gateways Safety improvements and side road visibility | | |
| 5.17 | <p>Rail Overview</p> <p>Stephen Keighley (SK) gave an overview on rail.</p> <p>DCO Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rail infrastructure works to enable delivery of materials to SZC site by rail, thus reducing number of HGVs and impact on local community Journeys from Ipswich to site and back only Overnight trains to avoid disruption to other rail services Rail noise mitigation plan acceptance by local authority <p>Noise & Vibration Impact Mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design to avoid trains stopping / starting en-route Replace jointed track with continuous welded rail 10 mph running in urban areas & branch line Trains not permitted through Leiston at night (11pm to 7am) <p>2 trains / day to ACA railhead* - January 2026 start date 4 trains / day to TCA (via GRR)* - April 2026 start date ACA and GRR removed – 2037 (approx.) *Each train removed 46 HGVs from local roads</p> <p>East Suffolk line upgrades: Level Crossing Upgrades (Due to increased LX risk – long slow trains) Track Works (Noise & Vibration mitigations) Flighting Signals (headway reductions)</p> <p>Rail – East Suffolk line level crossing upgrades Darsham Level Crossing Middleton Level Crossing</p> | | |



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| | East Suffolk Line scope Core SZC rail scope (DCO) | | |
| 5.18 | <p>Core Scope Overview</p> <p>1. Saxmundham Junction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade existing connection from East Suffolk line to Sizewell branch line <p>2. Sizewell Branch Line</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track upgrade – Jointed track replaced by CWR Signalling system upgrade Upgrade to 8 level crossings <p>3. New ACA Sidings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temporary siding to connect SIZ branch line to ACA (3 sidings) <p>4. New Green Rail Route / TCA Sidings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temporary railway to connect SIZ branch line to TCA railhead (8 sidings) 2 new level crossings | | |
| 5.19 | <p>Darsham Level Crossing Upgrade Rowland Stepney (RS) from Network Rail outlined works on the Darsham Level Crossing upgrade. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installing full barriers Reinstating the level crossing footpaths Exploring additional car parking for rail users in Sizewell P&R site Additional ticket machine (platform 1) Upgraded level crossing due to open by late 2026 SZC has agreed in principle to providing spaces in P&R for use by rail passengers In discussion to agree details. | | |
| 5.20 | <p>Rail Delivery – construction phases and timing</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Saxmundham Junction – start Q2 2025 – finish Q2 2025 Sizewell Branch Line – start Q2 2025 – finish Q4 2025 ACA Sidings – start Q4 2025 – finish Q4 2026 Green Rail Route – start Q4 2025 – finish Q1 2026 TCA Sidings – start Q1 2026 – finish Q2 2026 <p>SK explained that in May next year there is a nine-day blockade of the railway in which the East Suffolk Line will be closed. During this time, SZC are planning to carry out all the works at Saxmundham Junction to allow trains to automatically enter and leave the East Suffolk Line without having to have additional railway closures, which is the current situation. Following on from this, SK said there will be an extended closure of the branch line itself, which is for a period of 9-10 months, during which the main works of the branch line will be completed. He gave assurance that SZC are phasing the closure of the level crossings so disruption to the local community is minimised.</p> | | |
| 6 | Traffic and Transport Updates – (David Peacop and Steve Merry) | | |



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| 6.01 | DP showed two slides: one on HGVs and LGVs to highlight the live data. He said that a data report would be shown at the next forum. | | |
| 6.02 | Sternfield MB addressed the letter recently sent to residents around Sternfield on water tanking contingency measures. She said SZC are now reviewing these measures and will come back with an update. | | |
| 6.03 | There were questions from members and uncertainty on what was meant by 'reviewing'. MB said SZC are reviewing the plans in light of feedback and will update forum members once they are able to. | | |
| 6.04 | Cllr Paul Collins asked if this means the plans will not go ahead. Cllr Matthew Saunders said SZC must be clear on the language and whether 'review' means they are reconsidering the plans. MB said this means reconsider. | | |
| 6.05 | Cllr Collins asked why no consultation was undertaken with Sternfield and Benhall Parish Council, saying the Parish Council received the letter on the same day as the residents. MB said it is a fair point and this is why SZC are now reconsidering the plans. AFTERNOTE: As a point of clarification, the SZC team had a conversation with Benhall and Sternfield Parish Council ahead of the letter being sent to residents. | | |
| 6.06 | Cllr Collins asked East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council whether they approved the letter to go out or whether they were just as ignorant as Sternfield. MB said SZC wrote to affected residents about the proposed contingency measures and are now reconsidering these measures, reiterating that they will come back with an update on this when they are able to do so. Steve Merry said this was brought to the Transport Review Group in June and one of the roles of the TRG is to approve, or reject, any diversion off the agreed haul route to Sizewell. He said this was not approved at the TRG but the decision was escalated to the Delivery Steering Group to review the proposal in a broader context, where on balance it decided that this was acceptable. In terms of the communications, Steve Merry said SCC were advised not to share anything until they had more details and that SZC would handle the communications. He apologised for this but said that SCC would have had the correct information to share. | | |
| 6.07 | Cllr Matthew Saunders said this answer will leave people concerned that this will be the preferred way of operating going forward. Cllr Josie Basinette added that forum members challenged the TRG set up at the last meeting and were told by SZC that it would be disingenuous to override decisions, but that this example has proven exactly what members had feared would be the case. MB said the SZC team are keenly trying to demonstrate that they are listening and responding to community feedback. Cllr Saunders said this is no good if the community and Parish Councils are not informed in a timely fashion and that it does not leave people with a great deal of confidence. | | |
| 6.08 | Cllr Paul Collins said it is not a matter of informing in this case but a matter of consulting and argued that there should have been a proper conversation about this with representatives. Although this has now been rectified, Cllr Collins said that Sternfield and | | |



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| | Benhall Parish Councils were not on the Northern or Southern Transport Forums nor the Main Development Site Forum and were completely clueless to this. He it is an outrageous way to behave. MB gave assurance that SZC are working with the parishes very closely on this matter. | | |
| 6.09 | Cllr Charles Macdowell said he hopes the SZC team have learnt a lesson from this in terms of the way they approach these things, and he hopes they are reconsidering the Sternfield issue and the way they go about working with parish councils and other local representatives. | | |
| 6.10 | Cllr Alexander Nicoll put his disappointment on record. He said that as SCC's elected member, he is disappointed in the early stages of the project to hear that the group of experts formed in the TRG have basically been overruled. He said that the TRG as a confidence building measure is somewhat undermined by this example and he hopes it will not become a default position that concerns will be muted. | | |
| 6.11 | Cllr Nicoll thanked Rowland Stepney for his comments about Darsham and welcomed the plans. He went on to say that Greater Anglia decided to charge for their car parks a few years ago and said he hopes SZC will resist any calls by Greater Anglia to charge out any spaces on the Northern Park and Ride. He asked how many dedicated spaces there will be. | | |
| 6.12 | Rowland Stepney said the spaces SZC have offered is broadly comparable with the existing station car park, which is about 30 spaces. He said it is not set in stone and they will be working through some of the detail on this. DP said the team will share more information when they have done the detailed design. | | |
| 6.13 | Cllr Nicoll spoke about level crossings and said his division includes Melton where quite a lot seems to be planned, and that he found out about two overnight closures indirectly via Melton Parish Council. Cllr Nicoll said he has had exchanges about whether relevant county councillors and district councillors can receive what the town and parish councillors are receiving as he is otherwise reliant on Melton Parish Council to let him know about the closures. Cllr Nicoll said the communications needs to sharpen up. | | |
| 6.14 | Cllr Christine Redgrave said that with the expansion of houses in this area, the existing car park number is inadequate. Cllr Saunders said it is already full which suggests there is an issue. | | |
| 6.15 | Cllr Charles Macdowell said that he was crossing the Middleton Crossing this evening and there was to be a sign that looked to be for a 2-3 day closure of the level crossing in the next month or two, asking for more detail on this. RS said he does not think this is to do with the rail works and that Network Rail have done the upgrade there in terms of putting the red-light safety camera in. ACTION: RS and SK were not aware of this sign and agreed to look into this. | RS and SK | |
| 6.16 | Cllr Matthew Saunders put on record his thanks for the positive news about addressing the dangerous problem of crossing from the car park across the A12 to the station. He said it is hugely positive that this is going to be resolved but raised concerns that this is two years away. He said there is a wider theme behind his question and highlighted that he has never seen any speed enforcement approaching that level crossing. He said that traffic is going a good 60mph downhill from the north and that there are frequent traffic accidents at the level crossing, mostly shunts, and that something needs to be done to address this speed issue. | | |



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| | <p>He said this comes back to speed enforcement more broadly and asked about the possibility of the forum including input from Suffolk police and inviting them to attend the meetings.</p> <p>ACTION: DP said he would take this as an action.</p> | DP | |
| 6.17 | <p>Cllr Josie Basinette said two years is a long time with this extremely dangerous pedestrian crossing in Darsham. She said there is already much more traffic because of Sizewell C and asked what can be done in the meantime to make it safer. Cllr Basinette asked how much disruption there is going to be to the passenger service. With the exception of moving the parking, she said all the other things that have been put forward are nice for Sizewell but make the lives of people in the community much worse. She asked whether the trains will go through Saxmundham at night, and whether there will be closures of the rail line for the train that goes from Ipswich to Lowestoft.</p> | | |
| 6.18 | <p>In terms of railway operations that SZC are planning, SK explained that once the infrastructure is built, there is a further commitment that SZC will not disrupt passenger services, which is why they are operating the train services overnight. He said that when building the works and doing the upgrades, they can only be carried out when no trains are running and they are therefore undertaken during periods of possession when trains are suspended for a period of time. He said SZC are working closely with Network Rail colleagues to minimise the number and disruption associated with the possessions. As an example, he said there is the possession of the East Suffolk Line next October to do the upgrade at Darsham and that at the same time during the same possession, SZC are looking to do works associated with the branch line upgrade. He stressed that SZC are trying to do as much as they can within this period of time to minimise the amount of disruption.</p> | | |
| 6.19 | <p>Cllr Josie Basinette sought clarification on the trains at Saxmundham if they are not running through Leiston and whether they will be held.</p> <p>SK said when running the trains to the ACA they would run through Saxmundham without stopping and would then stop in rural areas between the level crossings and places where there are no properties along the branch line. He added that the instruction to the freight train drivers is that they would power down as much as possible to make sure the batteries do not run down.</p> | | |
| 6.20 | <p>Cllr Sarah Courage said the team had reported that there would be no disruption to rail passengers but also that there is a 9-day closure, asking what will happen to passengers and where this closure will take place on the railway.</p> <p>SK said it is taking place in May next year and it is on the East Suffolk line between Wickham Market and just north of Saxmundham. He said there will be bus replacement services run by Greater Anglia.</p> <p>Cllr Matthew Saunders said these bus services do not often operate from Darsham and that it may not be correct for Darsham.</p> <p>ACTION: It was agreed that this would be clarified as part of the meeting note.</p> <p>AFTERNOTE: An update will be provided at the next Northern Transport Forum meeting.</p> | SK | |
| 6.21 | <p>Cllr Andrew Turner said the trains going through Leiston during the day after 7am will have to cross the level crossing and presumably the trains are quite long, asking how long the crossing will be shut for traffic coming into Leiston each day.</p> <p>SK said the level crossing will be closed up to four times a day and each time the train goes through the level crossing it will be down for around 3 minutes.</p> | | |



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| 6.22 | Cllr Turner referred back to Cllr Saunder’s point on speed in Darsham and said the solution is average speed cameras and said these have been agreed elsewhere. He therefore requested a serious discussion about average speed cameras either side of the Darsham crossing. ACTION: DP said this is written down as an action. | DP | |
| 6.23 | Cllr Turner said the slides showed different timings for the Darsham Park and Ride with one suggesting it would be done in Q1 2026, with the second one suggesting Q3 2026. ACTION: DP said he would clarify the dates on this. | DP | |
| 6.24 | Cllr Turner said at the last meeting there was discussion on the ticket machine at Darsham and whether it could be moved into the car park itself. He said that presumably the car park will still be used by train users even when the Park and Ride is running as there is two years until it will be running anyway. He said there is an issue with people having to cross the road three times to get a ticket if they do not have the app. DP said it is a phased opening which will be used and finished in Q3. Cllr Turner questioned whether this means passengers at Darsham will be able to park from Q1 in 2026. ACTION: DP said the team would provide more clarity on this. | DP | |
| 6.25 | On the existing station car park and lack of car parking ticket machine, Rowland Stepney said Network Rail have been in discussion with colleagues at Greater Anglia about this. He said one of the challenges is that there is no power there and this needs to be resolved. He said Network Rail are exploring the possibility of implementing a solar panel ticket machine. He said they recognise the issue and do not have a full solution but that they have been in direct discussion with Greater Anglia. | | |
| 6.26 | Cllr Alexander Nicoll welcomed the average speed camera suggestion. DP said this will be included in the minutes. | | |
| 6.27 | Cllr Matthew Saunders asked about existing maintenance and repair of roads. He said the A12 is already noticeably busier, and the A12 B1122 junction is a great deal busier and has a greatly increased number of HGVs. Cllr Saunders said that he was recently cycling from Yoxford going into the B1122 and was nearly whacked over by an SUV as the right-hand turn markings on the A12 are not there anymore. Cllr Saunders said that he went to fill in a report on the Suffolk County Council report a fault website. He said SCC’s turnaround time to replace these is three and a half months. He asked what SCC will do as part of its obligations to provide adequate maintenance and repair levels on the A12. He said that SCC is not currently doing anything different even though it is a road with significantly increased usage levels. | | |
| 6.28 | Cllr Alexander Nicoll said Cllr Saunders may have already spoken with his county councillor Richard Smith. He said all councillors have a sum of money attached to them personally to replace and enhance signage in their division, and encouraged Cllr Saunders to raise this with Cllr Richard Smith. In terms of the broader point, he agreed with Cllr Saunders but said all these matters are Cinderella services compared with the statutory obligations laid on the county and district council. Cllr Nicoll suggested that Steve Merry may want to take this away as he has some resources connected with the project under the TRG. Cllr Saunders said this has been raised with Richard Smith, but his response was exactly the same in that he has precious little in the account. He said SCC will be the authority | | |



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| | responsible for effecting repairs and unless things are done differently, the situation will only worsen. | | |
| 6.29 | Steve Merry said that in examination SCC did try to find for additional maintenance money. He said SCC secured a sum of money for structural repairs and this is secured for the B1122 and A12. Cllr Saunders said SCC do not have sufficient money, and the road will be under increasing stress and strain. He said the situation will only get worse, unless Sizewell C fancy contributing something to this. | | |
| 6.30 | Cllr Nicky Corbett said it is not HGVs causing road conditions to worsen in Leiston, rather it is regular traffic and smaller goods vehicles. She said the level of traffic, which is not necessarily HGVs, has increased exponentially and is having a very bad effect on junctions and residential roads in the town. | | |
| 6.31 | Cllr Christine Redgrave said she had submitted a question regarding a 30mph speed limit from the new access roundabout to the Park and Ride for safety reasons. RB said Sizewell C did not have powers within the DCO which allow them to change from 40mph to 30mph. He said there have been concerns about road safety in the area and SZC would be happy to work with Steve Merry to review it to determine what might be acceptable as an action to address these concerns. | | |
| 6.32 | Steve Merry provided some figures in relation to this but informed members that he could not access the past two years' data. On the safety of the Darsham level crossing, he said data shows that from 2021-2010 there were seven recorded injury collisions at the location and since 2010 there have only been two injury accidents. On recent incidents, he spoke to the police and their understanding was that these were not injury related crashes. Steve Merry said he had also looked at Darsham Junction and reported that there had been four crashes over the last five years. He said that as a junction, it has a 40mph speed limit and good visibility so it is slightly concerning that it has had these crashes. ACTION: Steve Merry committed to look into these crashes. | SM | |
| 6.33 | Cllr Saunders said the accident on 23 June was a rear-end shunt in which the vehicle that was stopped was then pushed onto the tracks. He stressed the seriousness of this and said that it is essentially speed related. SM said the way they deal with crashes is based on injuries in line with national guidance. Cllr Saunders said this was a particularly nasty accident. | | |
| 6.34 | Cllr Andrew Turner said the housing development is proposed to have 110 houses, with vehicles joining the A12 and said that this will have an impact on traffic on the A12. | | |
| 6.35 | Cllr Sarah Courage asked about impact on traffic with the change of use of the ACA and the Sizewell B outage starting soon. DP said the team will report the data on the ACA at the next meeting. It was noted that there was a question on the Sizewell B outage later in the meeting. | | |
| 6.36 | Cllr Paul Collins said it was announced at the Main Development Site Forum that SZC would no longer use the caravan site at the ACA and went on to say that this will change the use of traffic along Lover's Lane and the B1122. He asked whether SZC expect any | | |



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| | changes to what was predicted there. Cllr Collins said he does not understand why the change was made and asked whether it will change the way the traffic is going to flow. ACTION : An update would be provided at the next Northern Transport Forum meeting. | DP | |
| 6.37 | Cllr Matthew Saunders said highway improvement schemes were not covered in the meeting, and raised the B1387 and works to put it in an acceptable state. DP said SZC are actively looking at the works and procurement to bring some of the work forward. Cllr Saunders said the owner of the land to the south of the B1387 has offered to make land available to assist in putting this road into a decent state. AFTERNOTE: Since the meeting, Cllr Sanders has emailed regarding the state of the road. | | |
| 7 | Q&A via Town and Parish Council Representative – (Chair) | | |
| 7.01 | Submitted by Cllr Charles Macdowell, Middleton-cum-Fordley Parish Council “How should traffic issues and mitigation measures for the B1125 in Middleton be addressed, given that Middleton Parish Council is not currently represented on the B1125 working group?” Answer: RB said SZC do not have a forum that is currently capturing the proposed footway improvements in the vicinity. ACTION: RB said SZC would take this up with Cllr Charles Macdowell and suggested a meeting with Middleton Parish Council to discuss this matter. Cllr Macdowell said he would like to include the traffic as well as the footway in this discussion. | RB | |
| 7.02 | Submitted by Cllr Charles Macdowell, Middleton-cum-Fordley Parish Council “How can the glacial pace of B1122 Early Years mitigation measures be accelerated, to improve on the Q3/Q4 2025 delivery date stated at the recent Main Development Site meeting, given that HGV traffic is planned to hit its ceiling of 600 per day before the end of 2024?” Cllr Macdowell said the point he wanted to make is that in the DCO process, the Planning Inspectorate recommended that construction on site would not commence until the Sizewell Link Road was finished but SZC pushed back on this and convinced the Secretary of State that there would be enough improvements to the B1122 that it could cope with the early years traffic. However, he said the mitigation measures are not likely to be in place until into next year. He encouraged the SZC team to push as far as they can for the full range of mitigation measures to be implemented as soon as possible. Answer: RB agreed on the need and priority of this and said DP had already outlined how SZC are trying to fast track the early years mitigation works. | | |
| 7.03 | Submitted by Cllr Sam Seddon, Peasehall Parish Council “How are SZC assessing the impact of secondary traffic on surrounding communities?” Answer: RB said this is an active workstream which was promoted by a question from Cllr Tim Beach at the SZC forum in April about traffic impacts on arterial routes or displaced traffic from the HGV routes. He said Steve Merry has been doing work on this and the team have created a list of roads of key concern. He said they would therefore need to ensure the roads Cllr Seddon is concerned about are on the list. He said SZC and SCC are | | |



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| | discussing a proposal for monitoring traffic at key locations on local routes of concern. This would provide visibility of traffic flows as the project moves forward through construction and form the basis for the TRG to take action where necessary. | | |
| 7.04 | <p>Submitted by Cllr Sam Seddon, Peasehall Parish Council “Is there funding available to mitigate impacts from secondary traffic on residents?”</p> <p>Answer: RB said traffic impacts would need to be considered by the Transport Review Group who will consider whether it may be appropriate to utilise the Transport Contingency Fund to deliver mitigation in individual locations.</p> | | |
| 7.05 | <p>Submitted by Cllr Matthew Saunders, Blythburgh Parish Council “Since the last meeting (when we discussed problems with the Darsham level crossing and passengers crossing A12) there has been yet another serious accident at the crossing. The accident involved a shunt with a vehicle being propelled onto the tracks. The A12 was closed and rail services suspended. Is there any progress in addressing what is already a very dangerous crossing before the A12 becomes even busier at this location?”</p> <p>Answer: Cllr Saunders said this has been answered. He said from Blythburgh Parish Council’s perspective the exercise of engagement with Richard Bull and Steve Merry on the B1125 has been a positive experience and reiterated the request to get Suffolk traffic police attending the forum meetings.</p> | | |
| 7.06 | <p>Submitted by Cllr Nicky Corbett, Leiston Town Council “How has the SZC operations team addressed the issue of the extra traffic during SZB outage this autumn, how will it be monitored and emerging problems addressed and has consideration been given to the effects on the emergency plan during this time?”</p> <p>In her contribution, Cllr Corbett called for a discussion on smaller traffic and contractor traffic and welcomed a meeting on how this might be addressed in the future. She said Leiston Town Council are pleased the caravan site will not be at the ACA. She said residents are concerned about the outage and the emergency plan and extra traffic and how this might be addressed and monitored.</p> <p>Answer: DP said the Sizewell B outage is in October for regular maintenance. He said SZC have been working with Sizewell B to manage the impact, particularly around car parking. He said SZC moved to the ACA as quickly as possible before the outage to help manage the flow. He said SZC will be helping with residential accommodation and there will be some new buses in September. He said there are lots of parts to this and welcomed discussing this further.</p> | | |
| 7.07 | Cllr Andrew Turner asked where the buses are picking workers up from. DP said they will be going from the ACA to the MCA, explaining that they will be going point to point. | | |
| 7.08 | Cllr Alexander Nicoll asked whether the buses are electric or hydrogen. DP said it will be hydrogen and there will be a blend of buses. There are diesel buses for the internal service and the hydrogen is a trial to determine whether this works. | | |
| 7.09 | Cllr Matthew Saunders asked about bus drivers, saying that Border Buses already have an issue with not having enough drivers. He raised concerns that if SZC were to pay them more then this would cause an issue. | | |



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| | DP recognised this point and said he was happy to have a separate conversation on this. He said SZC will be building its own bus training facility for drivers and will not remain reliant on the drivers they have. | | |
| 7.10 | <p>Submitted by Cllr Nicky Corbett, Leiston Town Council</p> <p>“While recognising the SZC project is primarily responsible for wear and tear on roads on the designated HGV route, how will road defects due to extra vehicles under 7.5t driving through the residential roads be funded and addressed? (Eg Abbey Road, Station Road, Park Hill, Haylings Road, White Horse Junction, Waterloo Avenue.)”</p> <p>Answer: It was agreed that this had been answered earlier in the meeting.</p> | | |
| 7.11 | <p>Submitted by Kelsale-cum-Carlton Parish Council</p> <p>“Given the pressure on the roads, rail transport will become more important in the future. SZC indicated that it was making improvements to the rail system in 2025. Can you please tell us what these improvements are, what lines are affected, timing of works including how long closures will last and what provisions will be made to accommodate rail customers?”</p> <p>Answer: It was agreed that this had been answered earlier in the meeting.</p> | | |
| 7.12 | <p>Submitted by Cllr Christine Redgrave, Darsham Parish Council</p> <p>“Park and Ride - given that this is a dark skies village what undertakings are SZC giving that the low level lighting and type of road surface design will not affect this status; what will be the height of the bund to protect properties along the A12 and backing on to the Park and Ride.”</p> <p>Answer: RB said this was a key element of the consultation and SZC are fully aware of the sensitivity of dark skies in this area. He said the SZC team have had a similar discussion with stakeholders on the Southern Park and Ride and have the same design going in there. He said that within the DCO consent there are established lighting lux level limits that need to be adhered to. Specifically the DCO states: “The design will minimise light spill both laterally and vertically onto adjacent habitats, and light spill both laterally and vertically beyond the site boundary will not exceed 1 lux”. This requirement will be met. The parking areas will be a permeable surface and therefore minimum to no light reflection. Dark and non-reflecting asphalt materials are being looked at for the roads within the P&R. The Bunds are ca. 3mt high. RB said a combination of those measures will protect the dark skies in the area.</p> | | |
| 7.13 | <p>Cllr Redgrave asked whether residents have been consulted on the size of the bund at three metres.</p> <p>RB said he has not personally but said SZC have reached the consultation process within the DCO which sets out the master planning and all the parameters there. He said that if the forum members recommend that SZC need to talk to the residents then they can do this.</p> <p>RK said there will be a bespoke session for Darsham Parish Council when the designs are finalised.</p> | | |
| 7.14 | <p>Submitted by Cllr Christine Redgrave, Darsham Parish Council</p> <p>“Road safety issues - at present the speed limit is 40mph and we think this should be lowered to 30 mph between the access roundabout to the P & R and the level crossing which would mitigate some of the dangers for accessing/exiting Darsham Street.</p> <p>Furthermore, there is actually not a footpath on the station side of the A12 immediately after</p> | | |



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| | <p>the level crossing, is SZC proposing to put a footpath access into the P & R for workers who arrive by train. And linked to this will SZC make provision for some spaces in the P & R for local people who currently use the Darsham Network Rail carpark which is on the opposite side of the road to the station, as it is already dangerous to cross the A12 there?"</p> <p>Answer: It was agreed that this had been answered earlier in the meeting.</p> | | |
| 8 | Chair’s Concluding Remarks – (Chair) | | |
| 8.01 | There was nothing to report. | | |
| 9 | Dates of Future Meetings – (Chair) | | |
| 9.01 | It was confirmed that the next Northern Transport Forum would take place on: Wednesday 6 th November 2024 at 18.30. | | |
| 9.02 | <p>The dates of future Forum meetings were provided.</p> <p>Main Development Site Forum Tuesday 15th October 2024</p> <p>Northern Transport Forum Wednesday 6th November 2024</p> <p>Southern Transport Forum Wednesday 14th August 2024 Wednesday 13th November 2024</p> <p>Sizewell C Community Forum An additional SZC Community Forum will be held on Wednesday 9th October at High Lodge Leisure, Haw Wood, Hinton, Nr Darsham, Suffolk, IP17 3QT.</p> | | |