

EDF Energy
Sizewell C/Wickham Market Parish Council
Traffic & Transport Meeting
24 August 2020

Attendees:

Steve Merry, Suffolk County Council (Chair)

Richard Bull, EDF

Stephen Henry, EDF

Cllr Alexander Nicoll, Suffolk County Council

Carolyn Barnes, East Suffolk Council

Cllr David Chenery, Wickham Market Parish Council

Dick Jenkinson, Wickham Market Parish Council

Jo Peters, Wickham Market Parish Council Clerk

Cllr Carol Poulter, East Suffolk Council

Cllr Anne Westover, Wickham Market Parish Council

Cllr Sonya Exton, WMPC & Sizewell Working Group

Fiona Judge, WMPC & Sizewell Working Group

Arthur Stansfield, WMPC & Sizewell Working Group

Richard Cooper, Marlesford Parish Council (Surrounding Parishes Representative)

Stephen Leach, Hacheston Parish Council

Ivor French, WMPC Chair

I. Apologies

Apologies were noted from Tracy Hateley, Tom McGarry, Sonia Lambert and Philip Ridley.

II. Minutes of 13 July Meeting and Actions Arising

All previous actions had been closed.

Sonya Exton stated that she had struggled to view the interactive environmental statement. Richard Bull said he was happy to circulate this once more. Carolyn Barnes asked if the minutes of 13 July had been circulated. It was confirmed that they had been. Alexander Nicoll stated that he had not received a copy of the minutes of 13 July. Richard Bull apologised for this.

Action – can the distribution list be updated to include all invitees.

Steve Merry stated that there is a working group for ESC, SCC and EDF to order to discuss the management plans. There were also concerns expressed by the Parish Councils regarding the non-highway impacts of the Southern park and ride and they would welcome an opportunity to discuss these with EDF. The signage access strategy would be discussed during the meeting. Richard Cooper asked that the GPS tracking of white vans remain a priority. Steve Merry clarified that this would be an ongoing matter.

Feedback from the Parish Council would be addressed during the meeting.

III. Parish letter to Richard Bull – brief by PC

Richard Bull stated that the letter had been well-received. EDF was happy to be involved in the process to define an appropriate scheme for Wickham Market. When discussing the specific impacts of the Sizewell C proposals, EDF had been clear on what it would and what it intended to mitigate and that EDF wanted to provide an acceptable solution for Wickham Market.

EDF was not only happy to help promote a scheme that would mitigate the impact for the Sizewell C development but also one that would also fit in with overall strategy for the town.

Steve Merry said that he was conscious that this would only be for Wickham Market and not the wider parishes and that measures need to be in place to address any issues in neighbouring parishes identified in the TA or ES or at a later stage during construction.

IV. EDF response to Parish Traffic Mitigation Proposals Working Document

Richard Bull stated that a lot of what had been included in the document had been helpful. He would be happy to respond to both letters. Alexander Nicoll noted that a reference had been made in EDF's stage 4 consultation document regarding Wickham Market's draft neighbourhood plan. EDF had acknowledged that if Sizewell C was consented additional traffic issues would occur as a negative effect. Alexander Nicoll hoped that this issue could be holistically reviewed. EDF are looking for WMPC to help identify the local impacts and views on what suitable forms of mitigation would be acceptable to the community. Richard Bull clarified that EDF would not renege on its commitment to review some of the existing problems. EDF would be happy to deliver an appropriate scheme that was accepted within the community and provided a legacy for Wickham Market.

Steve Merry noted that anything agreed through S106 had to comply with the CIL tests.

Richard Cooper requested that EDF be clear on what it considered to be outside EDF's mitigation remit. Richard Bull confirmed that EDF would be clear on this issue.

V. PC response to EDF presentation on potential improvements to High Street

Anne Westover stated that it had been suggested that the study area was too tight. As such, Anne Westover and David Chenery had elaborated on this. Wickham Market Parish Council was conscious that any refuges of traffic-calming areas would have to be designed at ground level. There were issues with school bus stops, specifically children entering and vacating buses. There was a risk of people using Spring Lane as a route through, though Anne Westover was of the view that there had to be a 20mph zone. There remained uncertainty regarding how the footpath and cycle path on the north side of the B1078 would be achieved. The bus stops were currently tricky in places, with children having to wait on narrow paving.

It would be difficult to decide upon how to create priority zones for vehicles. There was a question mark as to whether the Spring Lane junction zone could act as a traffic-calming zone. Anne Westover did not believe that fly parking would be a major worry.

Rackhams, and the approach to the bridge, had been identified as another difficult area, with there being a potential need for a calming zone. Wickham Market wanted gateways renewed, with there being three. Anne Westover did not believe that planting would be an option. The fake speed bumps had been deemed a good idea, though ultimately impractical.

Pedestrian refuge islands were an option, whilst the use of bollards would likely be tricky. It was unknown whether the flat mini-roundabouts would be appropriate.

Richard Bull thanked Anne Westover for the presentation. EDF are keen to develop this feedback and start to consider a broader design brief for the proposed scheme.

Alexander Nicoll hoped that the proposed improvements to the High Street could be coalesced prior to his attendance at the County Council Sizewell Decision-making Meeting on 22 September.

Steve Merry stated that the next step would involve him meeting with Wickham Market Parish Council to go through the items and refresh the brief, before the brief would be provided to EDF. Anne Westover requested that Carolyn Barnes attend the meeting. Steve Merry stated that the current brief did not extend beyond the High Street and B1078 as these were the areas identified in the DCO as being most impacted by SZC traffic using the Southern P&R .

VI. Proposed transport item headings for future discussions

a) High Street Mitigation

Sonya Exton did not agree with the suggestion to focus solely on the High Street. Steve Merry suggested that it be treated as a specific discrete scheme in order to attain progress. Richard Bull said that he did not view it as a separate piece of work, but rather that it could be described as the first element. Alexander Nicoll stated that it was impossible to focus on the High Street without taking cognisance of the wider scenario. The High Street could not be divorced from other issues of concern. Steve Merry believed that it could still be packaged as a project. If it did not provide the guidance to WSP it could miss the opportunity. Anne Westover stated that Steve Merry's comments were reassuring.

b) B1078 west of Wickham Market

Steve Merry stated that the B1078 works would run concurrent with the High Street mitigation. Note: Although the speed limit and supporting infrastructure can be designed as a separate project to show progress is being made.

c) Wider village transport concerns (e.g. Market Place)

Steve Merry suggested that the traffic mitigation proposals be used as a starting document. The next step would involve documenting the individual concerns based on the travel mitigation proposals document.

d) Access details, slip roads and pedestrian/cycle connectivity at Southern Park and ride

Steve Merry stated that he would need to ask Richard Bull to extract the documents in the DCO. Highlighted concerns included:

- Road markings;
- Lack of pedestrian cycling connectivity from the park and ride site to Rackham's Bridge;

- Crossing at the roundabout.

Richard Cooper highlighted the poor visibility when turning onto the B1078, due to the bridge parapet. Steve Merry replied that he would review this.

- e) Signing strategy for Southern Park and Ride

Richard Bull stated that consideration had to be given to this. EDF was happy to discuss this.

- f) Management plans and transport working group

Richard Bull said that this would be addressed within the traffic incident management plan. Alexander Nicoll stated that it would be helpful to know that the signage scheme was not too far disconnected from the traffic management plans.

Anne Westover asked how they would prevent traffic leaving the A12 and travelling through the village. Richard Bull replied that EDF would have to engage with Highways England and SCC regarding acquiring appropriate signage from the A14, but he felt it would be impractical to track individual vehicles/LGVs. EDF had a clear policy on the routes to site. Arthur Stansfield was of the view that vehicles could be tracked, such as through mobile phones. Richard Bull responded that EDF would give consideration to this.

Sonya Exton asked if EDF would provide support in order to prevent highway litter. Richard Bull replied that EDF had not previously considered this, though it was happy to discuss the matter. Steve Merry suspected that highway litter would remain a district council function and would only come under EDF's remit if a specific vehicle was reported. Anne Westover said that she found this worrying.

- g) Other non-highway matters

Anne Westover stated that Wickham Market Parish Council remained unsure of who it should raise issues with. The landscape mitigation bunding had been reduced and there was a complete lack of boundary planting in some locations. Wickham Market Parish Council would have welcomed more dialogue with EDF on this topic. Anne Westover had also been left horrified by what she had not seen in the submission.

Alexander Nicholl seconded Anne Westover's comments. He suggested that a site meeting be scheduled with Richard Rout. The views of Wickham Market Parish Council had to be funnelled through to Suffolk County Council.

Carolyn Barnes stated that as of 7 September she would assume the role of Transport Lead for East Suffolk Council Planning on Energy Projects. Carolyn Barnes would be willing to coordinate a meeting with Suffolk County Council.

Richard Bull suggested that Anne Westover send him an email detailing the missing documents in the submission.

VII. Deliverables (for September meeting)

- a) Speed limit for B1078 west of Wickham Market

Steve Merry and Wickham Market Parish Council to plan and agree upon the speed limit locations.

- b) Draft proposals for High Street

Steve Merry and Wickham Market Parish Council to review the draft brief and to agree upon the preferred approach.

VIII. Agreed actions

The agreed actions were as follows:

- The slip road and roundabout drawings to be circulated and to go through the concerns;
- EDF to ensure that all attendees receive the meeting minutes;
- EDF to respond to traffic mitigation proposal working document prior to the next meeting on 14 September;
- Steve Merry to obtain drawings for Stoke-by-Nayland.

IX. AOB

There being no further business, the meeting concluded.

This Executive Summary was produced by Ubiquis UK ☎ +44 (0) 20 7269 0370
<http://www.ubiquis.co.uk> / infouk@ubiquis.com