

WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCIL



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Wickham Market Parish Council: The Sizewell C Project

Verbal submission to Open Floor Hearing 3 Tuesday 18 May 2021

Session 1: Start 6:30pm

I am Cllr Sonya Exton and I make this open floor hearing submission on behalf of WM Parish Council in order to give you an update further to all our previous submissions.

1. TRAFFIC

- We continue to request that the traffic issues relating to Wickham Market are fully considered; this includes being aware of the current traffic conditions endured on a daily basis by residents as they deal with increased traffic owing to the increasing amount of development in the area.
- A request has been submitted for Accompanied Site Visits and we highlighted the areas of concern which we would like the Examining panel to review on the ground. We will aim to ensure that we have Parish representatives available to attend.
- The addition of an extra 1000 vehicles a day passing through the Wickham Market and surrounding villages to get to the Southern Park and Ride (SP&R) site is still incomprehensible to those living in the villages and along or close to the highways that this traffic will follow.
- As you have been made aware, since December 2019, meetings have been held with EDF representative, SCC Highways Officer, ESC, and with representatives from our neighbouring villages, over the matter of traffic to the SP&R site. These meetings are ongoing and at this moment we have yet to arrive at a scheme ready for wider Parish consultation. We are hoping that EDF will take the lead on the public consultation, we/WMPC will support the process, however we remain concerned about the effectiveness of consulting during the current pandemic restrictions.

- Although significantly late in the process we maintain that a public consultation is essential, as many residents are still unaware of the impacts of some 1000 cars/vans per day coming through the village. As already mentioned, vehicle volumes and their speed are already problematical. Combining that with the proposed (EDF) loss of on-street residential parking on the High Street will cause insurmountable challenges for many residents. None of the proposals put forward have included providing alternative parking locations to compensate for these losses.
- We have also requested (and agree with SCC Highways) that all highway design proposals should be safety audited prior to public consultation taking place.
- To reiterate: we have requested speed controls, having consistently requested speed reductions through the village including a 20mph zone, traffic calming measures, the possibility of comprehensive tracking and monitoring of all vehicles to the SP&R and SZC sites, and local weight restrictions which might restrict some LGVs travelling through the village to the SP&R. Whilst some elements of traffic control proposals have been put forward by EDF, it would appear that 'employment codes of conduct' are being relied upon to prevent personnel and delivery drivers arriving at the SP&R site via the B1078, a route regularly provided by GPS as a shorter cross-country route to access the A140.
- We have been requesting the use of technology to monitor the journeys of workers to the SP&R site so that EDF's 'employment code of conduct' can be enforced. One of our team members has expertise in Vehicle tracking and related GPS technologies and has suggested a method using GPS and mobile phone technology to monitor if workers pass through Wickham Market on their journeys to/from the SP&R. Alternatively smart camera technology could be used to record when EDF related vehicles travel through Wickham Market. The cameras could have EDF related vehicle registration numbers downloaded by EDF, so that the only vehicles monitored would be EDF related vehicles i.e., employees, contracting staff and companies involved with the project.
- Our report on this topic will be part of the WMPC written representation and was presented to EDF during 2020.
- As mentioned in the first paragraph, we request that the cumulative impact with other traffic coming through the village, currently and in the future, arising from further housing developments in the area along with other associated business traffic is comprehensively considered.
- We continue to request that the process of ensuring that any traffic mitigation measures, which might subsequently be locally supported (with caveats), are fully considered by the panel, in respect to effective control and delivery through the appropriate legal agreements and funding mechanisms (both capital and revenue). At the moment funding mechanisms are being assumed rather than agreed. Recent experiences with other developments within the village have shown that not all agreed work via legal agreements is always completed.

2. SP&R DETAILS AND IMPACTS

- We have already raised concerns about the design and lack of mitigation of the SP&R site and are pleased that the panel will be visiting the site and local viewpoints.
- We continue to request that our own recommendations for the provision of a more comprehensive scheme of landscape mitigation, including immediate off-site planting which could leave a long-term legacy of landscape enhancement, especially in the zone around the site access to B1078/B1116 roundabout, is fully considered by the panel.
- We have submitted our ASVs request which includes viewing the B1078/B1116 roundabout, the village road network, as well as public right of way viewpoints of the SP&R site from Wickham Market and Pettistree.

WMPC held an Extraordinary Meeting meeting to look at the latest proposals from EDF on 31st March 2021. The meeting resulted in much concern from the public and also parish councillors about the latest traffic scheme proposals for the village.

Reduced Speed limits are still lacking, gateway design is poor (we provided advice and examples from Essex and Suffolk), there is no cycle provision to the SP&R as requested over many years (and referred to in EDF Stage 4 documents) and the use of numerous build outs and loss of on-street parking are all of concern. Comments and suggestions have been fed back to EDF and SCC Highways by way of letters and our next meeting with EDF is scheduled for Monday May 24th.

Wickham Market Parish Council
18th May 2021
SE/AW/AS/FE