



MELTON PARISH COUNCIL

MPC(21)12

SIZEWELL C – EXAMINATION STAGE

The Examining Authority (Planning Inspectorate) has a maximum of 6 months to carry out the Examination. During this stage, Interested Parties are invited to provide more details of their views in writing. The Examining Authority will also ask written questions. Hearings may be held. Interested parties may request to speak at a public hearing or comment on other Interested Parties' representations.

In preparation for the Examination, the Examining Authority has written to MPC requesting information about its capability to engage with the Examination remotely, including the use of Virtual Events. The Examining Authority's specific questions are set out in the attached Questionnaire.

The responses to the questionnaire will help the Inspectorate to decide:

- the format and arrangements for the Preliminary Meeting;
- what Hearings will be held; and
- what the arrangements and preparations for those Hearings will be.

Given current circumstances related to COVID-19, people may need to access events from their home, rather than their workplace or a public place. They should assume this to be the case.

Each person who may wish to speak at, or observe, the Preliminary Meeting and/or any of the Hearing events should complete the questions and submit their responses. We sought clarification on this point and the reply from Examining Authority was "*We request that anyone who may wish to speak at the virtual events completes an individual questionnaire. An Organisation may then choose to nominate one particular speaker at each of the examination events.*"

The deadline for submitting the completed questionnaires is 11:59pm on Monday 18 January 2021.

The Council needs to decide how it intends to participate in the Examination Stage of the Sizewell C planning process and any person who might wish to speak will need to complete a questionnaire.

The questions are reproduced in full in the appendix below for ease of reference. A link to the online questionnaire is to be found here:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/the-sizewell-c-project/?ipcsection=docs>

William Grosvenor
Clerk and Executive Officer
11 January 2021

APPENDIX



EN010012- The Sizewell C Project

Virtual Events Questionnaire

The Examining Authority (ExA) for the above project is preparing to commence the Examination. Due to Coronavirus public health restrictions, physical meetings and hearing events (where people travel to and meet in a physical room) may be replaced where possible with additional opportunities to make written submissions and, where required, with virtual events, (where people participate using internet connected devices such as smartphones, tablets or computers or landline telephones or mobile phones not connected to the internet).

This Questionnaire has been prepared by the ExA to enable it to plan for virtual events if required. It is a request for information made under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010. Please respond by Monday 18th January 2021. You should be able to complete it online. If you have any difficulty completing it, please contact the Case Team:

Email: sizewellc@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Telephone: 0303 444 5000

The information collected in the questionnaire is subject to the Planning Inspectorate's privacy policy:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/ni-privacy-statement.pdf>

Please see the link below to a Statement from the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government setting out the Government's expectations for the planning system during the COVID-19 emergency:

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2020-05-13/hcws235>

1. Please confirm your name.

Enter your answer

2. Do you have access to an email address that you can use for regular contact with the Planning Inspectorate?

In order to participate in an event using an internet connected device you will need to provide the Planning Inspectorate with an email address that is accessible to you in the current circumstances.

Yes

No

3. Please confirm the email address that we should use to contact you.
We aim to communicate with people by email wherever possible as this is more environmentally friendly and cost effective.

By providing an email address you are consenting to the use of that email address by the Planning Inspectorate for all future communications in relation to this project. You may revoke your consent by giving notice to that effect in writing.

Enter your answer

4. Please confirm a phone number that we should use to contact you.

Enter your answer

5. Representation

I am representing myself

I am an employee, a professional representative or a friend/family member acting for another organisation or person

6. Please confirm the organisation or person you are representing

Enter your answer

7. Please confirm your unique Interested Party (IP) reference number, or the unique IP reference number of the organisation or person you are representing...

This is a reference number provided to you by the Planning Inspectorate and can be found in our communications to you. It will start with "SIZE" or "2002".

Enter your answer

8. In what way do you anticipate being involved in this Examination?

I do not need to be involved in any Examination events because I am content for my remaining involvement to be in writing

I do not know at this stage whether I will need to be involved in any Examination events

I would like to be involved in at least one of the Examination events

9. What Examination events might you anticipate being involved in?

The purpose of the Preliminary Meeting is to consider how the application will be Examined, it is not an opportunity for Interested Parties to put forward their views about the merits of the application, that will happen once the Examination begins. Please see:

Advice Note 8.3: Influencing how an application is Examined: the Preliminary Meeting

Advice Note 8.5: The Examination: hearings and site inspections

Advice Note 8.6: Virtual Examination events

While we aim to meet all expectations, it may be necessary to limit the numbers of interactive participants at a virtual event. All Interested Parties are able to provide Written Representations to us, and these will carry equivalent weight in our considerations to any oral representations made at an Examination event.

Select as many answers as apply:

The preliminary meeting

An Open floor hearing

Any issue specific hearing

Accompanied Site Inspection

A compulsory Acquisition hearing

None

10. How do you anticipate being involved in an Examination event?

I am likely to wish to speak on some agenda items

I don't know at this time, but I may possibly speak

I want to observe but would not speak

Not Applicable

11. Should any Examination events be held virtually, would you be content to watch or listen to a live stream, or recording of a virtual event and then be provided with an opportunity to set out your submissions (including any response to oral submissions made by others at the virtual event), in writing at a deadline shortly afterwards?

Yes, I would be content to be involved this way

No, I would not be content to be involved this way

Not Applicable

12. The Planning Inspectorate has produced a 'Guide to participating in a Planning Inspectorate virtual event'.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/929567/Guide_to_taking_part_in_virtual_hearing_inquiry_final.pdf

Having read this guide how confident are you that, if you wished to do so, you would actively be able to participate in a virtual event either using an internet connected device or a landline telephone or mobile?

Highly Confident

Confident

Reasonably confident

Not at all confident

Not applicable

13. If you anticipate actively participating in any virtual event please confirm how you would like to participate:

Using the internet and a computer or tablet

Using the internet and a smartphone

Using a landline telephone or mobile phone not connected to the internet

14.If you anticipate participating in any virtual event using the internet do you have access to a telephone that you could use if there was a problem with internet access?

Yes

No

Not applicable

15.Do you consider any of the below to be true?
(Select all that apply)

The internet in my area is slow, intermittent or has other performance issues

The computer, tablet, or telephone available to me has performance issues

I am not a confident user of information and communications technology (IT)

I do not agree that a video conference is suitable for hearing events

I do not agree that audio (including telephone) conferences are suitable for hearing events

Other

16.The Planning Inspectorate is considering offering those persons who confirm, in due course, that they wish to actively participate in a virtual event the opportunity to attend a familiarisation session with the Case Team. This would provide an opportunity for participants to test their access arrangements for a virtual event and raise any technical queries. If you are considering active participation in the Preliminary Meeting and/or Hearing events would you like the opportunity to attend a familiarisation session?

The ExA will not take part in the familiarisation session and it will not be an opportunity to discuss the merits of the case.

Answering 'Yes' to this question does not mean that you will automatically be invited to attend a familiarisation session at this stage.

 Yes No Not sure at this time Not applicable

17. Is there anything else we should know regarding your ability to access or participate in virtual events?

Please note that your response should not relate to the merits of the Proposed Development as this Questionnaire is concerned solely with the practical matters around arranging Examination events.