



MELTON PARISH COUNCIL

MPC(21)56

UPDATE ON SIZEWELL C PLANNING APPLICATION

The Examining Authority (ExA)

1. Following a preliminary meeting that ran for 3 days, the Planning Inspectorate's Examining Authority (ExA) has now decided on the arrangements for examination of the planning application for Sizewell C (SZC):
2. The ExA's timetable and action plan is shown in **Appendix A**
3. The ExA has approved in full EDF's proposals to change its original planning application (these were the proposals subjected to a 30-day public consultation in November and December 2020)
4. From now onwards, the timetable for the SZC planning application is set by law. The "Examination" period will run from 15 April to 14 October 2021, after which the ExA has 3 months to make a recommendation to the Minister, who then has up to 3 months to make a decision on the SZC application. The current timetable could deliver a decision on SZC by mid-March 2022, subject to the possibility of legal challenge.
5. The ExA's timetable reveals the huge scale of the examination process and the key "Deadlines" throughout the 6-month period. Melton Parish Council (MPC) will need to prioritise its inputs to the examination process, focussing on the essential.
6. MPC's key tasks over the period to July 2021 are as shown below (and highlighted **yellow** in **Appendices A & B**).

Deadline 1 – 12th May 2021

Apply on a special form to speak at the Open Floor Hearings, 18th to 21st May 2021 and identify the speaker

Pre-register a wish to make an oral representation at any of the "Issue Specific Hearings" from 6th to 16th July 2021 and identify the representative(s).

Open Floor Hearings - 18th – 21st May 2021

This is the main opportunity to voice personal and particular concerns about the SZC planning application. Each individual will have 5 minutes to speak. The oral statement should be informed by our previous and planned written submissions plus, possibly, early feedback from our survey of residents' views (see later in the report).

We are advised that it is better to cover a small number of topics in more detail than read a list. The ExA will also seek to avoid repetition, so the more personal or particular (to Melton) the contribution, the better.

Deadline 2 - 2nd June 2021

Post-Open Floor Hearing submissions, including written submission of oral case.

Written representation to the ExA – this is MPC’s opportunity to submit a written representation to the ExA, likely to have content similar to that submitted previously to EDF during the various stages of the SZC consultation process.

Issue Specific Hearings, from 6th July to 16th July 2021

A list of “Issue Specific” topics is given in **Appendix B**. While there may be local interest in quite a number of the topics, MPC should aim to be represented, as a minimum, at the hearings for:

The Transport Strategy, including the freight management strategy, rail freight path availability and deliverability

Impacts of the operation of night-time trains along the rail corridor

MPC’s involvement in any of the other Hearings would only be possible if there was more volunteer time available.

Deadline 4 - 23rd July 2021

Post-*Issue Specific Hearing* submissions including written submissions of oral case.

Deadline 5 onwards

It would be advisable for MPC to decide later on how it should respond to the post-July timetable. MPC should flex its response to the examination process as it evolves in the light of events or new information.

Local Impact Report (LIR)

7. The LIR on SZC is a very important body of evidence to be submitted to the ExA by Deadline 1. This 300+ page document is being prepared jointly by East Suffolk Council (ESC) and Suffolk County Council (SCC). ESC has contacted parish and town councils to consult them on the wording of a one-page section of the LIR that covers *Specific Impacts on Identified Communities*. MPC has responded, suggesting changes which bring out more clearly the impact on Melton and other areas of SZC’s road and rail transport strategy.
8. Within the LIR is a substantial section on “*Traffic and Transport*”, being prepared by SCC. Given Melton’s vital interest in the traffic and transport implications of SZC, SCC was emailed to ask if MPC could view and comment on (with regard to impacts on Melton) the current draft of “*Traffic and Transport*” section of the LIR. At the time of finalising this report, a reply had not been received. The ExA timetable allows interested parties to submit written comments on the LIR by Deadline 3.

SZC Overnight trains through Melton

9. Planning & Transport Committee on 22 April 2021 agreed to conduct a short on-line survey of residents’ views on EDF’s proposal to run overnight freight trains through Melton on the East Suffolk Line. This was because of members’ concerns about the:
 - lack of general awareness among residents about the implications of this proposal
 - resultant railway noise & vibration, which would cause sleep disturbance and have a significant adverse impact on residents
10. The anticipated residents’ feedback from the on-line survey will be taken into account when MPC prepares its formal written response to the ExA on the Sizewell C planning application.

11. The on-line survey is currently live on MPC's website and will be closed on 28 May 2020. Feedback from the survey will be taken into account in preparing MPC's Written Representaion to the ExA at Deadline 2. The on-line survey can be accessed at: www.melton-suffolk-pc.gov.uk/sizewell-c/
12. The Planning & Transport Committee also agreed there should be a leaflet drop to all households in Melton, the aim being to inform residents of the plan for overnight trains and invite them to complete the on-line survey. The leaflet delivery is being organised by Cllr Peter James, using volunteer councillors and residents, and will take place immediately after the local elections. A copy of the leaflet is shown in **Appendix C**. The message in the leaflet is also being conveyed to residents via other communication channels.

For Decision

13. Planning & Transport Committee has made the following recommendations to Full Council:

Delegations: the SZC timetable contains several actions that require timely decision-making by MPC. It is requested that in the absence of a timely Full Council meeting, a delegation to sign-off be given to Planning & Transport Committee; or if that is not practicable, again for reasons of timing, a delegation to sign-off be given to the Clerk & Executive Officer in consultation with Councillors Brown, Gradwell and Banks.

Cost of Leaflets: to approve the spending of £122 on the printing of 2,100 leaflets.

Cllr Bill Banks
May 2021

SZC - ExA DEADLINES AND TIMETABLE (published 21 April 2021)**SZC ExA - Deadline 1, Wednesday 12 May 2021**

Deadline 1 (D1) For receipt by the ExA of:

- Comments on Relevant Representations (RRs)
- Summaries of all RRs exceeding 1500 words
- Comments on Applicant's draft itinerary for ASI and suggested locations for site inspections (Accompanied or Unaccompanied), including justification, for consideration by the ExA
- Notification of wish to attend ASI (Accompanied Site Inspections)
- Local Impact Reports (LIR) from any local authorities
- If needed, draft section 106 Agreement(s) (s.106), s.106 Explanatory Memorandum and draft Confirmation and Compliance Document
- Notification by Statutory Parties of their wish to be considered as an IP by the ExA
- Notification of wish to speak at any Open Floor Hearing (OFH) (NOTE: notification of wish to speak at the OFHs w/c 17 May 2021 MUST be made on the appropriate form)
- Notification of wish to make oral representations at an Issue Specific Hearing (ISH)
- Notification from any Affected Person of wish to speak at a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH) • Notification of wish to have future correspondence received electronically
- Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this Deadline

SZC ExA - Open Floor Hearings 18 – 21 May 2021**SZC ExA - Deadline 2, Wednesday 2 June 2021**

Deadline 2 (D2) For receipt by the ExA of:

- Post Hearing submissions including written submissions of oral case
- Written Representations (WRs)
- Summaries of all WRs exceeding 1500 words
- Initial Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) requested by the ExA
- Statement of Commonality of SoCG
- Responses to the ExA's Written Questions (ExQ1)
- Comments by registered Interested Parties only 2 on any updated application documents and Changed Application documents
- Comments on draft s.106, accompanying draft Explanatory Memorandum and draft Confirmation and Compliance Document
- One dimensional modelling of Soft Coastal Defence Feature (SCDF)
- Design details and plans for Hard Coastal Defence Feature (HCDF)
- Responses to comments on RRs
- Applicant's revised draft of DCO
- Updated DCO Signposting Document
- National Policy Statement (NPS) tracker
- Updated Navigation Document
- Updated Book of Reference and Schedule of Changes to the Book of Reference (BoR)
- Updated Statement of Reasons (SoR) Appendix B 'Status of Negotiations with Owners of the Order Land'
- Updated SoR Appendix C 'Status of Negotiations with Statutory Undertakers'
- Comments on any additional information/submissions received by D1
- Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this Deadline

SZC ExA - Accompanied Site Inspections from 8 to 10 June and 22 June

SZC ExA - Deadline 3 Thursday 24 June 2021

Deadline 3 (D3) For receipt by the ExA of:

- Operational modelling of Soft Coastal Defence Feature (SCDF)
- Comments on WRs
- Comments on LIRs
- Comments on SoCG
- Comments on responses to ExA's Written Questions (ExQ1)
- Comments on Applicant's first revised draft DCO
- If needed, revised draft s.106, accompanying draft Explanatory Memorandum and draft Confirmation and Compliance Document
- Updated NPS tracker
- Updated Navigation Document
- Updated Book of Reference and Schedule of Changes to the Book of Reference (BoR) • Updated Statement of Reasons (SoR) Appendix B 'Status of Negotiations with Owners of the Order Land'
- Updated SoR Appendix C 'Status of Negotiations with Statutory Undertakers'
- Comments on any additional information/submissions received by D2
- Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this Deadline

SZC ExA – Issue Specific Hearings, from 6 July to 16 July 2021

SZC ExA - Deadline 4, Friday 23 July 2021

Deadline 4 (D4) For receipt by the ExA of:

• Post Hearing submissions including written submissions of oral case

- Any revised/updated SoCG (if any)
- Applicant's revised draft DCO
- Updated DCO Signposting Document
- If needed, comments on revised draft s.106, accompanying draft Explanatory Memorandum and draft Confirmation and Compliance Document
- Updated NPS tracker
- Updated Navigation Document
- Updated Book of Reference and Schedule of Changes to the Book of Reference (BoR)
- Updated Statement of Reasons (SoR) Appendix B 'Status of Negotiations with Owners of the Order Land'
- Updated SoR Appendix C 'Status of Negotiations with Statutory Undertakers'
- Comments on any additional information/submissions received by D3
- Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this Deadline

SZC ExA - Tuesday 3 August 2021

Publication by the ExA of:

- Second Written Questions (ExQ2) (if required)
- ExA's proposed commentary on, or schedule of changes to, the dDCO and s.106 documentation (if required)

SZC ExA - Deadline 5, Friday 6 August 2021

Deadline 5 (D5) For receipt by the ExA of:

- Comments on Applicant's revised draft DCO
- Comments on any revised/updated SoCG
- Updated NPS tracker • Updated Navigation Document
- Updated Book of Reference and Schedule of Changes to the Book of Reference (BoR)
- Updated Statement of Reasons (SoR) Appendix B 'Status of Negotiations with Owners of the Order Land'
- Updated SoR Appendix C 'Status of Negotiations with Statutory Undertakers'
- Comments on any additional information/submissions received by D4
- Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this Deadline

SZC ExA - Compulsory Acquisition Hearings (CAH), from Tuesday 17 August 2021 to Friday 20 August 2021

SZC ExA - Dates from Tuesday 24 August 2021 to Friday 27 August 2021 reserved for:

- Accompanied Site Inspections (ASI) (if COVID-19 public health restrictions allow and if required)
- Open Floor Hearings (OFH) (if required)
- Issue Specific Hearings (ISH) (if required) • Compulsory Acquisition Hearings (ISH) (if required)

SZC ExA - Deadline 6 (D6), Friday 3 September 2021

Deadline 6 (D6) For receipt by the ExA of:

- Post Hearing submissions including written submissions of oral case
- Responses to the ExA's Second Written Questions (ExQ2) (if required)
- If needed, revised draft s.106, accompanying draft Explanatory Memorandum and draft Confirmation and Compliance Document
- Response to ExA's commentary on, or schedule of changes to, the draft DCO and s.106 documentation (if required)
- Applicant's revised draft DCO
- Updated DCO Signposting Document • Any revised/updated SoCG (if any)
- Updated NPS tracker
- Updated Navigation Document • Updated Book of Reference and Schedule of Changes to the Book of Reference (BoR)
- Updated Statement of Reasons (SoR) Appendix B 'Status of Negotiations with Owners of the Order Land'
- Updated SoR Appendix C 'Status of Negotiations with Statutory Undertakers'
- Comments on any additional information/submissions received by D5
- Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this Deadline

SZC ExA - Thursday 9 September 2021

Publication by the ExA of:

- Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES)
- ExA's further commentary on, or schedule of changes to, the dDCO and s.106 documentation (if required)
- Third Written Questions (ExQ3) (if required)

SZC ExA - Dates from Monday 13 September 2021 to Friday 17 September 2021 reserved for:

- Accompanied Site Inspections (ASI) (if COVID-19 public health restrictions allow and if required)
- Open Floor Hearings (OFH) (if required)
- Issue Specific Hearings (ISH) (if required) • Compulsory Acquisition Hearings (ISH) (if required)

SZC ExA - Date Monday 20 September 2021 reserved for issue by the ExA of:

- Any request for further information under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules (if required)

SZC ExA - Deadline 7, Friday 24 September 2021

Deadline 7 (D7) For receipt by the ExA of:

- Post Hearing submissions including written submissions of oral case (if required)
- Responses to the ExA's Third Written Questions (ExQ3) (if required)
- Responses to ExA's commentary on, or proposed schedule of changes to, the draft DCO and s.106 documentation (if required)

- If needed, comments on revised draft s.106, accompanying draft Explanatory Memorandum and draft Confirmation and Compliance Document
- Updated Navigation Document
- Comments on any revised/updated SoCG
- Updated Book of Reference and Schedule of Changes to the Book of Reference (BoR)
- Updated Statement of Reasons (SoR) Appendix B 'Status of Negotiations with Owners of the Order Land'
- Updated SoR Appendix C 'Status of Negotiations with Statutory Undertakers'
- Updated NPS tracker • Comments on any additional information/submissions received by D6
- Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline

SZC ExA - Deadline 8, Thursday 30 September 2021

Deadline 8 (D8) For receipt by the ExA of:

- Comments on the RIES
- Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this Deadline

SZC ExA - Deadline 9, Wednesday 6 October 2021

Deadline 9 (D9) For receipt by the ExA of:

- Comments on responses to the ExA's Third Written Questions (ExQ3) (if required)
- Final DCO to be submitted by the Applicant in the SI template with the SI template validation report
- Final DCO Signposting Document
- Final updated Book of Reference
- Final SoCG
- Final Statement of Commonality of SoCG
- List of matters not agreed where SoCG could not be finalised
- Final Navigation Document
- Final Statement of Reasons (SoR) Appendix B 'Status of Negotiations with Owners of the Order Land'
- Final SoR Appendix C 'Status of Negotiations with Statutory Undertakers'
- Final NPS tracker
- Final signed and dated s.106, final s.106 Explanatory Memorandum and final Confirmation and Compliance Document
- Final ES signposting document
- Final Mitigation Route Map
- Comments on any additional information/submissions received by D7 and D8
- Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this Deadline

SZC ExA - Complete Examination by Thursday 14 October 2021

The ExA is under a duty to complete the Examination of the application by the end of the period of 6 months beginning with the day after the close of the Preliminary Meeting.

SZC – ExA’s choice of Issue Specific Hearings (ISH)

Requests were made to hold a large number of ISH, with both ESC and SCC providing an agreed list of 25 issues which were considered suitable for hearings. These included for the following topics and in respect of individual geographical locations linked to the different associated development sites as well as the main development site: Annex C C15

- Policy and Need

- The Draft Development Consent Order

- The Transport Strategy, including the freight management strategy, rail freight path availability and deliverability

- Associated Development Sites of the Two Village Bypass, Sizewell Link Road, Northern Park and Ride, Southern Park and Ride, Green Rail Link, Freight Management Facility and Yoxford Roundabout. For each to include the principle of need, alternatives, highway impacts, LVIA, ecology, air quality, noise, drainage, lighting, access, archaeology, minerals, soils and agriculture, PROW

- Community Impacts and Safety including law and order impacts and the role of the emergency services, displacement of residents and potential need for diversionary routes. Broader impacts on housing, public services, sports, recreation and health and wellbeing for the local community

- Impacts of the operation of night-time trains along the rail corridor

- Effect of the proposed development on the AONB designation

- Coastal Geomorphology to cover the permanent and temporary Beach Landing Facilities proposed Hard and Soft Coastal Defences, drainage outfall and the relationship to climate change and resilience

- Funding Case

- Socio economic issues including skills development, accommodation impacts, tourism impacts, supply chain, and opportunities for local people and businesses

- Water supply

- Flood Risk

- Radiological considerations, including the management of major accidents and disasters. Provision of storage of Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) and spent fuel

- Habitats Regulations, Water Framework Directive and Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI)

HAVE YOUR SAY - SIZEWELL C PLANS TO RUN TRAINS THROUGH THE NIGHT

In 2019, Melton Parish Council consulted residents on EDF's proposals for Sizewell C (SZC). Since then, we have reported regularly on the progress of the SZC planning application.

SZC's latest planning application aims to move more construction material by rail and sea, and less by road.

To achieve this, EDF would run multiple overnight freight trains on the East Suffolk Line through Melton between the years 2023 to 2034. During the peak period of construction (5 years: 2024 to 2028), EDF plans to run a weekday schedule of up to **8 train movements through the night**.

EDF has published an **illustrative** timetable for the overnight trains through Melton:

23:36 Outbound (going south)	02:47 Inbound (going north)
00:28 Outbound	03:35 Inbound
01:16 Outbound	04:23 Inbound
02:07 Outbound	05:19 Inbound

The average interval between trains would be 49 minutes. Each train would be about $\frac{1}{3}$ km long, typically made up of Class 66 locomotive and 20 wagons carrying 1,250 tonnes of construction material. These long trains would travel at 10mph through Melton and take $1\frac{1}{4}$ minutes to pass at any given point.

EDF is exploring the option of running **5 trains per day (10 train movements)**, with each of the 2 extra train movements displacing a day-time service. EDF is assessing a **further option** for trains to run **6 days per week** (the 6th day being Sunday night/Monday morning).

EDF is running an environmental assessment on the impact of train noise and vibration. A number of noise mitigation measures are proposed.

Melton Parish Council has voiced its concern to both EDF and the Sizewell C Planning Inspectors about the sleep disturbance that would be caused by overnight trains. What do you think? Might you be affected by sleep disturbance? We encourage you to have your say. Melton Parish Council has put together a very short survey so we can better understand your views.

Please complete the survey on our website: www.melton-suffolk-pc.gov.uk/sizewell-c/

Your views are really important to us as they will provide the evidence needed to support our written response to the Planning Inspectorate at the next stage of the Sizewell C planning application in June. Thank you in advance.

Melton Parish Council

PS Why not sign up for the Parish Council e-newsletter at www.melton-suffolk-pc.gov.uk
You'll receive regular news and updates straight to your inbox.

