

Yoxford Parish Council – Sizewell C - Final Submission to the Planning Inspectorate – October 2021

In our submissions so far, Yoxford Parish Council has tended to focus on the detrimental impacts the proposed Sizewell C development will have on our community and the local area. In our final submission to the Examining Authority we would like to focus on the mitigations we believe the applicant should be offering should the development be granted consent to proceed. We hope the applicant, Examining Authority and both local councils will support these measures and take the necessary steps to ensure they are delivered.

Traffic

In the early years, all HGVs from the south will pass through Yoxford on the A12 and B1122. After completion of the southern park and ride but before completion of the Link Road, all southern park and ride buses will pass through Yoxford on the A12 and B1122. Additional construction traffic will pass through Yoxford during the building of the Link Road, Yoxford Roundabout and Northern Park and Ride. Throughout the whole development, HGVs from the north and buses from the northern park and ride will pass through part of Yoxford on the A12 and B1122, workers driving to the campus and northern park and ride will travel through Yoxford on the A1120, A12 and B1122, some LGVs and cars will pass through Yoxford on the A1120, A12 and B1122 and AILs will pass through Yoxford on the A12 and B1122.

Traffic Mitigations

- 1) Signalised pedestrian crossing on the A12. Yoxford Parish Council has had two constructive meetings with the applicant and both councils, we have agreed a location for the crossing just north of Old High Road and we believe the applicant has agreed to provide the crossing.
- 2) Quiet surface dressing on the A12 through Yoxford.
- 3) Traffic calming measures on the A12, especially the stretch starting at the 30 mph limit sign to the south through to the Kings Head public house. Although the speed limit is 30mph, traffic along this stretch often exceeds 40mph and speeds over 80mph have been recorded. The parish council regularly deploys a speed indicator device on the A12 but additional measures are required.
- 4) Provision of double glazing for single glazed properties on the A12 and B1122 most impacted by noise from HGVs and buses.
- 5) 20 mph speed limit on the A1120 from the village boundary to the A12 junction for the duration of the development. This is partly for the safety of pedestrians, including school children, and is partly to reduce traffic noise. We are aware the County Council is reluctant to approve 20 mph speed limits. We believe this policy is not keeping pace with the approach being adopted by other councils round the country and a 20 mph speed limit through Yoxford should be considered. We would be happy for this to be a trial, with success criteria agreed and regular reviews taking place, but please give it a chance. It is widely supported.
- 6) Air quality monitoring. Air quality is an issue causing significant anxiety amongst people from Yoxford. We ask that air quality be monitored at least monthly, but ideally permanently, on the A12 near to the Kings Head public house and near to the primary school on the A1120. If this monitoring identifies air quality issues these should be mitigated as soon as possible.

Loss of Amenity

The coast and heaths area, including Sizewell Beach, Minsmere, Dunwich beach and the Sandlings Walk, represent a significant amenity for the people of Yoxford. During the development they will be unusable or very significantly impacted for an extended period of time. There is no mitigation that really addresses the loss of such an amenity, so instead, we ask that the applicant consider contributions that can improve the community of Yoxford in other ways.

Loss of Amenity Mitigations

- 1) Yoxford village hall is in a very poor state of repair. Really it needs rebuilding but the cost is beyond the means of the village. The parish council, as trustees, are investigating alternatives including repairs to the structure of the walls and replacing the roof. However, even this is beyond our means. We ask that the applicant considers making a contribution to the cost of repairs or rebuild and also offers to provide expertise to assess what is required.
- 2) Pavement from Yoxford to Darsham station. This pavement is an important link for Yoxford but it is currently too narrow and is immediately adjacent to the A12. It is dangerous even to walk along and it

cannot be used for cycling, pushchairs or wheelchairs. The Yoxford roundabout development will improve the footpath around the new roundabout but we ask that the rest of the footpath from Yoxford to Darsham station be improved to make it safe for cyclists and pedestrians and suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs.

Consultative Forums

We ask that Yoxford Parish council is represented on the following proposed forums - Transport North, Transport South until the link road is operational and HGVs and buses from the south no longer pass through Yoxford and the forum for the main development site. Although Yoxford is not as directly impacted as parishes closer to the development site, Sizewell B is visible from Yoxford and we believe there will be some impact during construction.