

2 December 2019

Proposal for WPC to add its name to a Joint Letter from Suffolk Coastal Parishes and Towns Regarding Proposed Energy Projects

On Monday 11th November 2019, a meeting was organised by the Anglian Energy Planning Alliance on behalf of Parish and Town Councils at Snape Maltings regarding the Energy projects proposed for Suffolk. 22 Parish and Town councils were represented at the meeting. Walberswick Parish Council sent apologies but could not attend as it was on the same evening of our November Council meeting.

Parishes and Town councils at the meeting unanimously agreed (subject to their Councils' approval) to draft and sign a joint statement setting out the main issues and requesting a review to be sent to Secretary of State at BEIS. For those Parish and Town councils who were not able to attend the meeting, it has been requested by those attending that the letter be brought to all councils' attention for consideration to be included. SPR's DCOs have been submitted and EDF are planning to submit the DCO for Sizewell C early next year so the statement to the Secretary of State needs to be ready to go out by December. It was also agreed that councils would keep in touch on these issues.

The impact of these seven, as yet uncoordinated energy projects, will be felt across the county and we have been urged by the participating Councils and the Anglian Energy Planning Alliance to participate in/support this initiative. (*A map showing the various projects is attached to this report.*) They have asked us all to take note of the fact that colleagues in Norfolk have been successful in obtaining a review of energy projects affecting their area after sending a joint letter to the Secretary of State, so by combining our voices we are hopeful of having a similar effect.

CONTENT OF PROPOSED DRAFT LETTER

Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom MP
Secretary of State, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

Dear Mrs Leadsom,

Re: Energy projects planned for Suffolk Heritage Coast

We write to you on behalf of the undersigned Parish and Town Councils in Suffolk to express our significant joint concerns and to urge you to immediately suspend the current DCO applications for EA1N and EA2 made by Scottish Power Renewables (SPR), and to conduct an urgent review of the impacts of all the Energy projects currently planned for this area (including the DCO for EDF Energy proposals at Sizewell C expected in Spring 2020). The reasons and rationale for this urgent request are as follows:

We fully understand that there is a global emergency that requires a national transition in the UK away from fossil-fuelled energy and incorporates renewable energy opportunities. However, despite engaging in the various consultation processes in good faith with EDF, SPR, and more recently National Grid Ventures as individual councils, making what we regard as reasonable and balanced representations in response to the impact of each project separately and cumulatively, it is our joint view that our initial and continuing concerns regarding this unprecedented industrialisation remain largely unaddressed.

Specifically, we have consistently raised our concerns about; the level of both HGV and other construction related traffic on our roads (both those in the immediate surrounding area, as well as the A12 and those within communities served by the A12), the associated

infrastructure required in such a relatively small geographic location (see attached map) and the environmental impact in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), one with both International and European designations, which will be a very real threat to the local tourist economy. Please also see attached the recent Destination Management Organisation (DMO) report which highlighted the value that residents and visitors place on the "peace, tranquillity and natural environment" of the area - all of which it concludes is at significant risk from the projects as currently planned.

Our concerns are also shared by many, very well-respected local organisations: Suffolk Wildlife Trust said, speaking on the proposals for Sizewell C on 30/10/19, that it would mean "the loss of nationally important fen habitat...could hit water-levels, affect costal erosion, harm rare bats and have a profound impact on wildlife" and that it was "unquestionable that the proposed development will have significant adverse ecological impacts which will be very difficult to adequately address". RSPB Minsmere on its website state "This could be catastrophic for wildlife. The building work may increase erosion, upsetting the delicate balance of the reserve.... impacting its rare wetland wildlife, which includes bitterns, otters and ducks. Once the construction is in progress, it may increase levels of noise and light pollution. Rare marsh harriers, breeding ducks, geese and wading birds are very sensitive to this. The effects will be long-term."

In addition, despite assurances given over the years that the cumulative impact of what could be in total up to 7 energy projects (and growing as we write) would be considered - there is no evidence so far of any meaningful attempt to make that cumulative assessment, nor coordinate even the consultation or the potential delivery. Without this cumulative assessment and an updated national strategic plan, including the appropriate siting of any required infrastructure into areas which would not require the destruction of AONB, SSSI and greenfield sites nor significantly damage the environment and economy of the communities served by our Parishes and Town councils - these projects should not be allowed to progress.

In conclusion, each project and its associated infrastructure is individually too big for the areas being considered. The cumulative impact of having six of these sequential industrial energy developments running in parallel with a proposed Sizewell C development will devastate the local environment, economy and the health and well-being of all those who live in, work in and visit our Parishes and Towns over a period of many years impacting negatively on the whole of East Suffolk. The significant harm and disbenefit is not outweighed by any potential gain and we would request your robust consideration and urgent intervention.

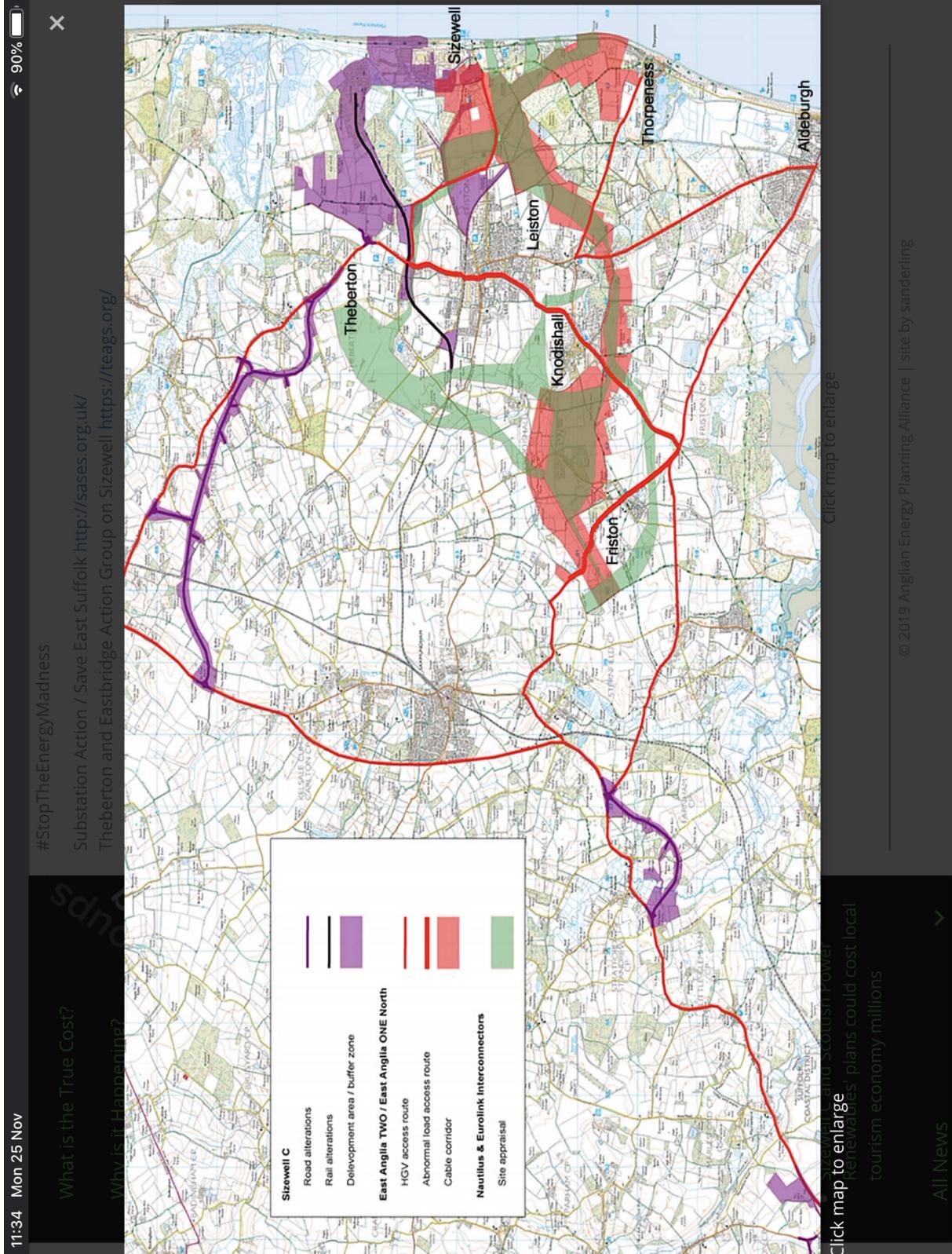
Yours sincerely,

On behalf of:

[Reverse alphabetical list of parish and town councils, here please.....]

Cc: Suffolk County Council, East Suffolk Council, Parliamentary Candidates, EADT.
Enclosed: DMO report and map of the cumulative impacts.

Attachment Map of Proposed Project Locations



11:34 Mon 25 Nov

#StopTheEnergyMadness

Substation Action / Save East Suffolk <http://sases.org.uk/>
 Theberton and Eastbridge Action Group on Sizewell <https://teags.org/>

What is the True Cost?
 Why is it Happening?

Click map to enlarge
 'New nuclear' plans could cost local tourism economy millions

Click map to enlarge

© 2019 Anglian Energy Planning Alliance | site by sandering

All News

