

Parish Report - April 2019

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Councils express concern over energy projects

Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council have jointly expressed concern with two proposed energy projects in Suffolk: EDF Energy's Sizewell C, and Scottish Power Renewables' two offshore windfarm projects.

At the Cabinet meeting on 12 March, it was agreed that the councils would submit joint consultation responses on each of the projects.

With regards to Sizewell C, the councils say they are still not able to fully support the proposals because EDF Energy's plans have not evolved as much as they had hoped between consultation stages 2 and 3. The impact of the proposals on the environment and local communities would be major, and it is not yet clear exactly how EDF will mitigate these impacts. The councils say that the proposals need to be better developed and evidenced, and have requested further details from EDF.

With regards to the two off-shore windfarms, whilst the Council remains committed to the principle of offshore wind, it is concerned that the current proposals are too damaging to Suffolk. Concerns include negative impacts on the coastal landscape and AONB, the impact of onshore substations at Friston, HGV routes and traffic flows, and background noise levels. The councils wish to work with SPR to mitigate these impacts where possible, and where mitigation is not possible to seek compensation.

Suffolk County Council declares "climate emergency"

On 21 March, councillors from my group successfully proposed a motion calling on Suffolk County Council to recognise the imminent dangers of climate change and declare a climate emergency. The motion received near-unanimous support, with 60 councillors voting in favour, and only one vote against and one abstention.

As a result of this motion the Council will form a cross-party panel by September 2019, which will be tasked with developing policy ideas to help the authority cut carbon emissions on a spend to save basis. The council has also agreed the ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030, and has committed to working with partners in Suffolk to help them achieve the same goal.