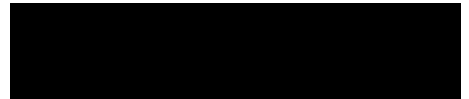


From: Paul B. Taylor



Sent by email to the Sizewell C Planning Inspectorate

19th May 2021

Dear Case Team

SIZEWELL C PLANNING INSPECTORATE
Open Floor Hearing 3 (OFH3) on Tuesday 18 May 2021 (evening)

PLEASE ACCEPT THE TEXT BELOW OF MY ADDRESS TO THE OFH ON 18TH MAY AS MY WRITTEN SUBMISSION (deadline 2nd June):

Others here this evening - more qualified than me - have presented persuasive and fact-based objections to this project and I endorse and thank them all. I will therefore speak from a personal perspective to articulate how the building of Sizewell C will impact on us. This submission is therefore more from the heart than from the fact-book that has been so eloquently presented by others today, but I hope it is no less relevant for that.

I speak as a very recently retired Headmaster of a boarding and day school in Suffolk. My wife and I had always intended to return to Kent for our retirement, but a few years into our tenure at this school we realised that Suffolk had 'got us' and that we didn't want to leave. We thus sold our house in Kent and bought a home in the beautiful village of Middleton.

We thus made an active choice to commit the rest of our lives to this stunning county. Why did we do that? There are a number of reasons, but very high up the list is the sheer beauty of the place and of the people here, not least the wonderful heritage coast, with its unspoilt walks, wildlife and big skies – the allure of which has only grown through this last lockdown year.

It is quite humbling being a teacher and in my 30 years in the profession I can say without hesitation that I learnt more from the young than I ever taught them. I am a better person for their influence. One only has to see how they are driving the macro-movements of the day to know that the perspective of the young is ignored at our peril. Be it climate change; behavioural and linguistic norms; cultural and personal tolerance to people of all nationalities, creeds, colours and sexual orientation – the list goes on – it is the young that are driving so much of our social and political agenda. And the vast majority of the informed young simply despair that we are even considering building a nuclear power station that will devastate local flora and fauna, on a coast that is eroding at a frightening pace, with a company whose appalling track record in directly comparable projects is clear for all to see in terms of the length and expense of construction, both of which have exceeded BY FAR their initial estimates and promises.

I think it was Picasso who once said 'it took me 60 years to learn to see like a child', and while I am not ignoring the importance of experience and maturity, I also believe that we sometimes lose the simplicity – even the obviousness - of arguments and this can lead us to rationalising our way into terrible decision making. This is how I feel about Sizewell C: whatever rational pathway led us to even consider building this – however we got there - if it leads to the decision to actually build it then it is wrong: the detail of the trees have blinded us to the preciousness of the forest.

It is wrong because of the devastation of our world heritage coast that will never – NEVER – be restored. All the talk of mitigation and of restoration is a mere diversion: you cannot restore what has been destroyed. Similarly I am afraid I do not believe the financial or economic claims that it will bring jobs and prosperity to the region – even in the short term, but certainly not in the long term. Experience of Sizewell B and elsewhere, when similar promises were made, shows us how empty such promises are. It simply does not make sense to threaten the very existence of a well-established and hugely successful tourist industry that is based on the very things that Sizewell C will destroy. Economically, as in so many other ways, Sizewell C cuts across so many thriving lives and livelihoods.

By the time Sizewell C is built I will be in my mid-70s. The chaos and invasive intrusion of all that goes with the 10-12 year construction period will blight the very reasons that my wife and I chose to stay in Suffolk for the golden years of our retirement. And as one gets older – and we are grandparents now – one thinks more and more of one's legacy to future generations. It is not being over-sensitive or too 'woke' to confess to some deeply-held guilt for much of what our generation has bequeathed our grandchildren (albeit unwittingly for most of us) and to add the spectre of 100s, if not 1000s, of years of abandoned nuclear waste (for which I have yet to see any real plan of any substance or sensitivity) makes me shiver with shame.

And finally, please do not underestimate the very real impact that the debate – and the uncertainty – surrounding this project is having **right now** on the mental health and wellbeing of people in this part of Suffolk. This is very real and it is exacerbated by the growing realisation that it is only those who live here who really 'get' what Sizewell C will do to our region, and the sense that in truth the decision will be made by those with no personal investment in the area. Please, if you really care about this wonderful county, listen to the informed views of those that actually live here and don't build Sizewell C.

With all good wishes

Yours sincerely

