

I am not ideologically opposed to nuclear power. 10 years ago I thought nuclear power was needed to control carbon emissions, but today we have offshore wind at half the price. Nuclear fission is a failing technology. None of these EPWR reactors have worked properly yet. Advanced economies like Germany are replacing nuclear with renewables. The game changer of nuclear fusion is just around the corner.

This is the most important decision to affect our district for a generation, and I have spent the summer canvassing opinions from parish councils, businesses, experts and ordinary people. We need to weigh the possible benefits against the costs.

The benefits seem uncertain.

It will take until 2040 before Sizewell starts to contribute to carbon reduction because of the emissions from the construction. Gas powered stations should be stripping carbon from their emissions by then, so Sizewell will not have a chance to make a positive impact on global warming.

The 20bn investment and associated jobs would be very welcome at the moment, but how much are we going to lose from our tourism industry? Andy Woods, CEO of Adnams, says that we will lose much more than the £40m annual estimate. Tourism in Norfolk and Suffolk is worth £5bn and employs 100,000 people. The industry does not need this kick in the teeth, especially at the moment.

And how much of the investment will actually stay here? “ they are building accommodation sites for the workforce from Hinkley.

Investment will not last forever, but our natural habitats may be lost forever

#### Costs

Only three things are certain - it will cost more, take longer and have unexpected side effects.

The birdsong of Minsmere will be silenced by constant noise and light pollution from the construction.

The A12, our country lanes and villages will be clogged with lorries and rat running commuters.

Putting two reactors on our eroding coast is full of uncertainties.

Nobody forecast the erosion at Pakefield and Easton Bavants this spring.

Nobody knows what will happen for the next 140 yrs “ the life of this plant.

Any local fisherman will tell you how much the Dunwich and Sizewell banks move, confirmed by the Mott MacDonald 2014 report.

What will happen to the coast to the South at Thorpeness and Aldeburgh “ or even Felixstowe - if this concrete fortress intercepts the southerly flow of sand?

Sizewell C will be built on soft alluvial soil in an old river bed, not the hard coralline crag that underpins the existing stations. Hinkley have found that expensive.

90 yrs ago, Sizewell was shaken by the UK's worst earthquake.

8000 years ago a land slip in Norway caused a 25 m high tsunami “ bigger than the one that disastrously closed Japan's Fukushima plant in 2011.

EDF say that Sizewell will withstand a one in 10,000 year event “ it would not however have survived those two events that actually occurred within the last 10,000 years. And that is without sea level rise.

Indeed, EDF admit, and I quote, “Shoreline change is driven by several factors whose importance and interaction several decades into the future cannot be accurately predicted”

So they asked 7 anonymous experts to extrapolate from present trends to arrive at a “plausible” worst case scenario.

At best, an educated guess. At worst, a finger in the wind.

Nick Scar, one of the few experts not gagged by the EDF payroll, criticises them for assuming a sea level rise of only 0.5m not the 2m recommended by the Dept for the Environment. They are banking on a sea level threat which is only .7m above the 1953 flood levels.

Their sea defence plans are literally sketchy - a couple of sketches with no dimensions, elevations, materials or foundations. It would not get through the door of our planning department if it were for a house extension.

How much concrete will we need to keep this nuclear island fortress safe from the sea?

They are already talking of a 14m high wall.

We will rely on the station operators to respond to changes and mitigate,

But who knows if EDF are still going to be around in even 10 years with their current debt and need to replace the French nuclear stations. A Chinese takeaway, perhaps? They already own 20%, Will we be in the shark fin soup?

All we know is that the UK taxpayer will again have to pick up the tab.

Why should we harbour this uncertain investment on our treasured coast and countryside, just for the privilege of paying double for our electricity?