

Alison Downes, Open Floor Hearing, 21 May 2021

Good morning again. I am grateful for this opportunity to speak to you once more.

My name is Alison Downes and I am now representing myself and my family. We live in Theberton, [REDACTED]. My husband has lived here for over 20 years, and I have lived here for 17. We have two sons [REDACTED]. I am a founder member of Theberton and Eastbridge Action Group on Sizewell, or TEAGS, now known as Stop Sizewell C. I was formerly a campaigner on human rights for the people of Tibet so I have direct experience of dealing with the Chinese regime so I empathise with Cllr Hudson's remarks

I don't intend to talk very much about the project as I agree with 99.9% of what you've been told over the past 4 days. I am personally most concerned that it will blight the remainder of my two boys' childhoods and our peaceful enjoyment of our quiet home and beautiful surroundings. My sons attend [REDACTED] in Framlingham and frankly I don't know how we are going to get them there. We must turn **right** out of Church Road on to the B1122 which is a blind corner around our historic round tower church, which I believe you have been invited to visit. During morning rush hour the quantity of traffic is already a challenge, especially if anyone is speeding. With the amount of traffic proposed, it feels like an accident waiting to happen. Our neighbour tells us that it used to take him ten to fifteen minutes to exit Church Road during the construction of Sizewell B - but he was turning left.

I don't have any expectation my sons will get jobs at Sizewell C. I heard Humphrey Cadoux Hudson reply to a question from parliamentarians, about whether it was EDF's plan to move skilled workers from Hinkley to SZC, "that is our vision". I also note they have confirmed that the skilled workforce would move from Hinkley C.¹

You have heard a great deal of passion and emotion in these last few days. From my observation many people are at their limit. We have been dealing with the prospect of Sizewell C for over eight years. It dominates conversations in our community and is the source of considerable anxiety. Revd Tim Rogers, and his predecessor Revd Canon Christine Redgrave spoke eloquently about the impact on the mental health of people in the 8 parishes of the benefice.

First there was the realisation that it wasn't another Sizewell B, it was TWO Sizewell Bs. People who said of B "it was terrible but we survived" had to contemplate the possibility of double the trouble.

Through five consultations we've had to read and digest substantial quantities of material to try and understand what was being proposed, and find the information lacking. We've had jetties, no jetties, a beach landing facility, two beach landing facilities, a choice of three transport strategies, no new roads, the wrong roads, it's been a complete rollercoaster.

Stage 1 and 2 consultations took place over the Christmas period, sucking time and enjoyment out of a period that should have been filled with joy and preparations to host

¹ page 39 "With the right timing, there can be a direct transfer of skills from Hinkley Point C to Sizewell C." [https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010012/EN010012-003958-Sizewell%20C%20Project%20-%20Comments%20on%20Relevant%20Representations%20\(RRs\).pdf](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010012/EN010012-003958-Sizewell%20C%20Project%20-%20Comments%20on%20Relevant%20Representations%20(RRs).pdf)

family and give children a Christmas to remember. After Stage 1 there was an outcry and EDF said they wouldn't hold consultations over Christmas again. And then they did. Stage 4 consultations started exactly 4 months after Stage 3 closed. And that was over the summer holiday.

During the first covid lockdown, we begged EDF not to submit its application - but they did. There was no opportunity for our community to physically get together, study and share the documents as a team, to draw strength and resolve from each other. EDF's mobile "library" was a fiasco - a cynical box ticking exercise.

Once again, friends and neighbours squared their shoulders and did what we were required to do - again over the summer - in submitting our relevant representations. You can imagine what a stinging insult to injury it was when we learned that six days later - **SIX DAYS LATER** - EDF announced its intention to change its proposals. And so we were subjected to yet one more consultation because EDF wanted to reduce HGVs, something they have been told consistently since STAGE ONE.

So here we are. Still standing, but exhausted and the Examination has only just begun. One good thing has come out of this - eight years ago I habitually spoke to very few people besides my immediate neighbours, but now I know so many people. Over the years, through TEAGS or Stop Sizewell C's numerous packed meetings - literally overflowing our 300 seat church - we, people within the parish and from further afield, have become a community, drawn together by our common concerns.

The eloquence and emotion expressed over the last few days has been deeply moving and I just wanted you to understand where we are coming from and the toll that has been taken thus far, And we know the really hard stuff is still to come. As for those who have managed to engage with both this AND the Scottish Power Renewables DCO, which is still going on, they deserve a medal. I'm not one of them, but I want to pay tribute to the likes of Marianne Fellowes, Glynis Robertson, Tim Beach, Victoria Hambley, Graeme Murray and others.
THANK YOU