

BENHALL & STERNFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
MRS MELANIE THURSTON – CILCA CLERK TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

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24th August 2021

Planning Inspectorate EN010012

Re: The Sizewell C Project

Since the Two Village Bypass is essentially intended to benefit Farnham and Stratford St Andrews, we have hitherto left it to their Parish Council to work with EDF to deliver a satisfactory solution. However, we have always been aware that the northern end of the bypass is in the parish of Benhall, and affects some of our residents. We now understand that some of these residents feel that EDF are not satisfactorily addressing their concerns, and hence this representation.

Benhall & Sternfield Parish request for additional measures to be incorporated into the Sizewell C DCO, to mitigate against the currently poor design of the Two Village Bypass (TVB) and the effect that it will have on the dwellings near the A12 and those in the Farnham Hall area.

Landscape impact, visual effects and design

- A bund parallel to the route of the proposed Two Village Bypass to screen business' and parts of property.
- Visual and screening noise attenuation fencing around the eastern construction compound.
- Additional soft and hard landscaping to absorb the bypass into its setting.

Noise and Vibration

Quiet Road Surfacing;

- What additional acoustic benefit might be expected if this surface were to be used for the Sizewell Link Road and the Two Village Bypass?
- Would a different maintenance regime from a standard road be required in the event this surface were to be adopted to maintain the acoustic benefits it may bring?
- Is this now being factored into the discussions?
- In the event that quiet road surfacing were to be offered how would this be secured?

Aside from the proximity of the TVB to the neighbouring properties and business', the most significant issue faced is the noise that the bypass will create – both during construction and in-life. The temporary construction area abuts Molletts Farm and is immediately adjacent to the two Benhall Stock Cottages and the Old Police House. Since even EDF admits their TVB scheme will cause irreversible harm to the tranquillity of this setting, we are keen to ensure that they take every possible step to minimise those effects.

We therefore ask for a better TVB design that includes noise-mitigating bunding along the western edge of the northern section (between Friday Street and the Farnham Hall area), low-noise road surfacing in the same zone and safe pedestrian crossings for all four arms of the Friday Street roundabout. We believe that, taken together, these measures will be of significant benefit to all those concerned – which amounts to 17 residential dwellings, Molletts Farm - tourism-led business (which hosts over 1,000 guests a year and contributes to the local economy) and those that live and enjoy walking around the local area.

Yours faithfully

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Dr Hilary Graham
Chairman to Benhall & Sternfield Parish Council