

Sea Link (*)

I'm sure that we're all now familiar the everyday topic of conversations around us.

"Where on earth has all this traffic come from? "

"You know It just took me half an hour to drive from Snape to Leiston."

And *"Why are they digging up the fields and cutting down all the trees?"*

- and so on...

But what is amazing is that the majority of local people **still** don't seem to understand that's this marks the early stages of the Sizewell onslaught – as well as National Grid doing what they call 'exploratory surveys' involving armies of chain saws and giant bulldozers. We're witnessing the start of the destruction of our much loved countryside, but what we've seen already is nothing compared with what they have in store for us - Its not going to blow over!

We'll need to prepare ourselves for the devastation to wildlife, to community, to property, to tourism and much more if Sea - Link were to be given the go-ahead. Most of the people you'll hear speaking today are much better informed than me about the precise details of what is going on right now - so I will leave that to them. I would like to make a different point.

I don't regard myself as a 'nimby' because its not my back yard that's being dug up, and I'm also of the generation who will never see this brutal venture reach its hideous conclusion! Yes, we'll all have to put up with years of noise and traffic but we will manage, but surely -

its not all about us?

The real losers will be our children - and their children. They may born in this unspoiled countryside, but they'll grow up in an ever -increasing industrialised area with all the associated problems caused by noise the pollution and the breakdown of communities.

That's one hell of a legacy for us to leave them!

In 15 years time, when teenagers see pictures of how beautiful the area once was they'll want to know why they're surrounded by huge concrete buildings? Why were they built there? - and they'll ask their parents 'why did you let them do it?'

The area will have changed beyond recognition - it will have lost its communities and its charm, the wildlife all but vanished. And even if they can find somewhere to work and to live - will young people want to remain in such a depressing place?

We all agree that the country needs more affordable energy and that wind power must be the answer. Where we don't agree is how that generated power will be delivered. Ruining precious areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and digging up the fragile coastline to build Substations the size of 3 Wembley Stadiums cannot be the only answer!!

For years SEAS have been advocating a better, cheaper and less destructive way to proceed by which the power would be connected to available onshore brownfield sites like Isle of Grain. This space does not require the destruction of communities and wildlife and its located far closer to where the power is needed.

National Grid don't care about us - why would they? They're motivated solely by making more money for their wealthy shareholders - (who incidentally) are largely based in America and Abu Dhabi!

So - please God - let common sense prevail and let them think again!

Thank you.