

SEA Link Project Phil Peeling - Saxmundham

I have been a resident of Saxmundham since retirement 20 years ago and prior to that visited the area on holiday for many years.

I am worried about the cumulative impact that so many energy projects undergoing construction at the same time in one small region will have particularly extreme adverse effects on traffic flow of the local road network, road safety, exhaust fumes and noise pollution, etc. We are already experiencing these issues from the preliminary works for the two Sizewell C Power Stations although the construction is not due to start for 18 months. The A12 is intermittently closed or has one way traffic operating with 'traffic lights'. When the A12 is closed the diversion is via Diss an extra 60 miles to the journey. Many of the minor roads in the area are intermittently or permanently closed. This is annoying to residents but must be a nightmare for the Emergency Services and the local Tourist Trade.

I am also very concerned that the Sea Link project will have on the Local Housing and the Medieval 12th Century Church at the top of Church Hill, Saxmundham. This large site positioned so close to rural housing is unforgivable due to the noise, visual and traffic pollution it will cause during and after construction. I have similar concern with the large construction proposed in Friston Village. What, if any, provision has been made to reduce noise pollution after construction. Sinking buildings low into the ground and building earth bunds around to cover the eye sore?

Sea Link is one of many Electrical infrastructure projects in our area. Since the energy is produced 'at sea' and should be connected to other European grids (for interchange) then why not run cables at sea down to Essex or Kent, where the energy is required? This is how it would be treated in Europe.

Finally, I strongly suggest a visit to this beautiful rural area of East Suffolk by all with any responsibility for this and any other projects being planned over the next 15 plus years.