

I am a resident and business owner in Saxmundham, now the epicentre of cumulative and escalating disruption. We are being encircled.

To the west, a housing expansion is planned to increase the town's size by approximately 40%.

To the north, significant infrastructure works, including water constraints linked to Sizewell.

To the east, Sizewell impacts and other energy developments are on every Road.

And now, to the south, the proposal for major works at Bennell Bridge our primary access route

This is unacceptable.

This work at Bennell Bridge would be prolonged it would materially worsen cumulative impacts. It introduces further environmental harm, visual degradation, and, most importantly, sustained disruption to a key access corridor that residents rely upon daily.

If this unnecessary project is to proceed, a northern route must be properly considered and implemented instead.

I don't want to be trapped further.

Just this weekend, we witnessed a failure of coordination and planning with the A12 closed at Friday Street while, simultaneously, rail services were suspended and replaced with buses. There was effectively no reasonable access in or out of the area.

This is not an isolated incident.

If basic alignment between road and rail closures cannot be achieved, there

is no confidence that more complex, long-term infrastructure planning will be managed effectively. With no accountability or penalty.

The consequences of all this compound: Tourism is being actively undermined, fewer return visits and negative word-of-mouth impact, people want to escape for beauty, not for roadworks.

It depends on accessibility, environment, and experience. All three are now under sustained threat.

Meanwhile, the town's character is changing. Short-term worker Accommodation is replacing tourism-based occupancy.

This alters spending patterns and service types, reduces support for local businesses, and erodes the cultural fabric of our high street.

We are also facing a sustained decline in quality of life: constant roadworks, traffic management, noise, and overnight freight movements. This is not a temporary inconvenience—it is long-term degradation.

Residents I know are considering leaving, but cannot do so without financial loss, as property values are already being affected by uncertainty and prolonged disruption.

Hospitality is under pressure from all directions.

This impacts young people starting out in life, with employment opportunities

The elderly and vulnerable residents face increasing barriers to accessing Healthcare.

Under heavy vehicle use, and subject to diversions, local roads are becoming congested and unsafe.

Therefore, for Saxmundham

- The southern access route must be preserved and kept open
- Bennell Bridge must not be reinforced or used as the primary solution
- A northern route must be properly developed and utilised instead if this bad idea goes ahead

- Coordination across all projects must be demonstrably improved and enforced.

This community is already under significant strain. The cumulative impact of these proposals are excessive and unreasonable.

I urge you to rule out Bennell Bridge access, to protect both the accessibility and the integrity of this community.

Thank you.