

MINUTES OF GREENPRINT ENVIRONMENT FORUM

Monday 8 May 2006, 7.00pm

Council Chamber, Suffolk Coastal District Council

Present

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Cllr Mary Dixon	SCDC	Ross Proctor	Sizewell A Power Station
Phil Gore	Head of Health, SCDC	Paul Wilkinson	Sizewell A Power Station
Fiona Patrick	SCDC	Clare Mitchell	Sizewell A Power Station
Guy Ackers	SWT	Heather Goddard	Sizewell A Power Station
R Dixon	Felixstowe Society	G Baverstock	Dunwich
R Rankin		C Baverstock	Chillesford
M D Rankin		Cllr Andrew Nunn	SCDC
Liz Mark	Bawdsey PC	George Onuoha	SCDC
David Aufenast	Bawdsey PC	Colin Coates	Woodbridge RSPB
Hazel Blackshaw		John Forbes	Martlesham PC
D E Ball	Woodbridge TC	Suzanne Lacey	SEAL
John E Coles	NFU		

Apologies

Several apologies received including: - Frank Huxley

1. Introductions

Cllr Mary Dixon welcomed everyone to the Greenprint Forum.

2. Forum Members update

Hedgerow Survey

Cllr Mary Dixon has just attended a training session, by Guy Acker, for the Hedgerow Survey and congratulated Guy on his training, efforts and achievements with the survey.

Green Living Family Fun Days

Saturday 24th June 2006 and Sunday 25th June 2006, Chantry Park, Ipswich, 10 - 5, Free Entry. Lots going on to promote sustainable living - something for everyone. Members were encouraged to support the event.

3. Suffolk Energy Action Link (SEAL) - Suzanne Lacey

Suzanne is working with SCDC to support energy schemes. Over the summer they will be holding Solar Information Evenings providing information on:-

- What it is
- How it works
- What you need
- Cost
- DIY Installations
- Grants

First confirmed event is 26th July 2006 at Suffolk Coastal District Council.

Suzanne is also involved in an Energy Information Day - 17th June 2006, Middleton Village. Middleton is involved in finding out how much carbon dioxide the village/residents produce - to establish a carbon footprint.

4. Decommissioning of Sizewell Power Station - Paul Wilkinson, Waste Manager

Paul Wilkinson has worked at Sizewell since 1984. He has worked in every department. Sizewell's Safety record is excellent; Safety is the No1 priority. They are ISO14001 approved and are the first organisation in the world to achieve top marks in Det Norske Veritas ISRS & IERS Level 10. Paul gave us the background to Sizewell A and the decommissioning.

The full presentation can be downloaded from
<http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/envprotection/greenprint/forum/>

Questions and Answers

Q1 Will Sizewell be encased in concrete

A1 There is already a 6ft thick encasement of concrete

Q2 Clearing the site - what happens to the nuclear waste?

A2 High Level Waste - will be processed at Sellafield, Intermediate Level Waste - will go to a National Repository, Low level waste is currently sent to Cumbria, but that site is almost full. Another National/Regional Repository is being looked for. Some low-level waste can be disposed of on site.

The site could be left as green field or brown field - no danger. There is no way the site will be left unsafe. To be de-licensed they have to achieve below a set level of low activity levels.

Q3 If the site is doing so well - output & safety, why is it being decommissioned?

A3 The Government signed an agreement to say that all Magnox sites would be shut down by 2012. Sellafield must stop discharging waste into the Irish Sea, so all Magnox sites must be closed.

Discussions

Terrorist Attacks – measures currently in place apart from the robust engineering the reactors automatically shut down if the circuit is breached. Once Sizewell is decommissioned it would be absolutely pointless for terrorists to target it as hazards are fixed and would be very difficult to spread.

Coastal Defences- Could Sizewell cope with the floods of 1953? Sizewell has in place a 5 metre and 10 metre dune to protect against flooding. Sea levels are always being monitored and work carried out accordingly. The actual reactors are high in the building - it would have to be very severe flooding for the water to reach them.

Leaving Sizewell as a legacy to the next generation - One of the reasons for trying to decommission Sizewell in 35 years and not 100 years is that it would be

better dealt with by people who have worked at Sizewell when it was active. Concerns over Sizewell being left for another generation to deal with.

Decommissioning of Sizewell Power Station - Environmental Impacts - Clare Mitchell & Heather Goddard.

Heather told us about all the regulations that they have to work to. Clare went through all the areas that they have to investigate to be able to achieve the decommissioning.

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Discussions

Concern over Kittiwakes that currently nest in the Sizewell towers - all concerned are trying to resolve this problem, several ideas have been made but no solution yet agreed.

Selafield - can it cope with the closures? All closures have been planned with exact details, down to the dates/times that each plant has to send its waste to them