

Marjorie Barnes
Head of Regional External Affairs and Development
Sizewell C Community Relations
48-50 High Street
Leiston
IP16 4EW

1 October 2025

Dear Ms. Barnes,

Re: B1125 extension and its associated road-works and vegetation clearance

We (Middleton Parish Council & Westleton Parish Council) are writing to you on behalf of our Parishes with regard to the B1125 which runs through both our villages, and in particular its planned extension to the Sizewell Link Road (SLR).

In your reply to East Suffolk District Councillor Paul Ashton dated 29 September, you note a working group that developed an early years scheme on the B1125, but you do not list Middleton Parish Council - that is because Middleton were not included in that working group, the very parish in which the B1125 extension to the SLR is to be constructed.

We acknowledge that this extension is included in the DCO. However, we query its purpose: you state in your letter to Paul Ashton that *“this link ensures that local non-SZC traffic is able to effectively join the SLR and this will remove a significant volume of traffic from the B1122, in particular through Theberton – this was a key justification for the delivery of the scheme. Traffic modelling work undertaken during the DCO Examination set out that removing the B1125 / SLR junction would result in 2,441 non-SZC traffic movements through Theberton that would otherwise join the SLR.”*

Firstly, we are confused as to why you are constructing a road to address “non-SZC traffic”. Secondly, we anticipate a different impact; our expectation is that the B1125 extension will attract non-HGV SZC (as well as all other site traffic) coming from/going to the north as a short-cut. This is traffic which should be using the A12 and SLR in order to avoid the use of local roads as is SZC’s intent.

Once the Northern Park and Ride is operational, worker traffic on the B1125 should reduce as only workers living east of the A12 and south of Blythburgh (apart from workers residing at the planned accommodation at the former High Lodge Golf Course), will be allowed to drive to the SZC site. But SZC has not put in place any measures to ensure that SZC-bound LGVs use the SLR instead of local roads. Numerous requests that you track (and are therefore able to control) your LGV traffic - as you do HGVs - have been rejected with no good reasons given.

You further note the work of the B1125 Working Group which has agreed measures to mitigate the increased traffic on the B1125 during the early years before the Northern Park and Ride and the SLR are ready for use. As Middleton was not part of that group, detailed discussions about the B1125 extension and the re-positioning of the B1122 at the B1125/1122 junction did not take place as Blythburgh, Walberswick and Westleton understandably focused on their sections of the B1125. Consequently, detailed local discussion about the B1125 extension has only now started, and that is primarily because of the notice of the planned felling of 7 oak trees on the B1125.

Over recent months, local people have become increasingly dismayed at the scale of the environmental devastation by SZC. These oak trees were the “trees too far”. Consequently, a group of local residents raised concern. We are of course delighted that 5 of the 7 oaks have been spared through your engineers re-evaluating the sight line from the planned dog-leg of the rearranged B1122. However, this does not address the wider concern that the extension of the B1125 will encourage the continuation of the B1125 rat-run by SZC LGV traffic post-early years even though SZC claims that it is working to ensure that SZC traffic stays off local roads. Moreover, whilst Westleton village has been provided with speed deterrents to mitigate the early years traffic increase, no measures are proposed for the B1125 in Middleton.

We therefore request a meeting with you, the SZC team and local representatives to discuss this matter in detail to find a solution which satisfies all parties as correct procedural steps appear not to have been followed. And importantly, we request that the vegetation clearance on the B1125 due to start on 6 October is postponed until that meeting has taken place.

Yours Sincerely,

Julian Cusack - Chair, Middleton Parish Council
Andrew Turner - Chair, Westleton Parish Council

Cc: Cllr Smith, Cllr Nicholl, Cllr Ashton, Cllr Daly, Cllr Graham, Cllr Whitelock, Jenny Riddell-Carpenter MP, Martyn Fulcher, Bethany Rance, Julia Pyke, Richard Knight