

Response to Consultation re SEG

Campsea Ashe PC response to Public Consultation on Suffolk's Energy Gateway (SEG)

1. How the response was obtained
 - 1.1 Represents the interests of electors of Campsea Ashe PC
 - 1.2 Views obtained from HGV Working Party who have made many contacts of local residents and have researched traffic related issues in the area.
 - 1.3 An Extraordinary Meeting of the PC on 11 October covering both this and the SCDC Consultation on the Review of the Local Plan. Although attendance was sparse it
 - 1.4 Completion of the Consultation Questionnaire was not appropriate in this instance as it concentrated on the views of the villagers directly affected (as did the Exhibition at Stratford St. Andrew). There was little reference on maps etc. to the surrounding area to give a wider context.

2. The need for a bypass.
 - 2.1 There is general agreement in Campsea Ashe of the need for improvement of the A12 north of the B1078 junction to reduce traffic volumes on the existing road, improve road safety and reduce community severance of the four villages and improve as highlighted in the information provided.
 - 2.2 There is less certainty about which of the two routes is preferable or whether an alternative solution is required.

3. Concerns about the proposed routes.
 - 3.1 Both routes may be partly within the parish of Campsea Ashe and there has been no notification to representatives of the PC; although the exact routes on the plan are unclear.
 - 3.2 Both routes cross environmentally sensitive water meadows impacting negatively on biodiversity and landscape; the latter resulting in visual intrusion.
 - 3.3 There is a negative impact on sites of historic interest, including local heritage assets.
 - 3.4 Both north and, particularly, the south junctions of the proposed bypass are likely to create more traffic along the B1078 and minor roads through Campsea Ashe. The increasing number of HGVs is already a major concern given that the B1078 is not part of the county's designated lorry route.

4. Summary

There are economic benefits of the SEG (in addition to those mentioned in note 4 above) but there remains uncertainty as whether an average three minute time saving (as quoted at the exhibition) is commensurate to such a large financial commitment on a project that will also create an overall negative environmental impact.