

## District councillor's report, June 2013

### 1. Proposed gas-fired power station at Eye

Progress Power proposes to develop a gas-fired power station on the Eye Airfield industrial estate. The plant would be capable of generating up to 300MW of electricity, enough to power the equivalent of 400,000 homes.

The proposal is of such a scale that it will be considered under the Planning Act, 2008. As such it is regarded as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), and the administration of the project falls to the Planning Inspectorate, with the ultimate decision as to whether it should proceed or not resting with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change. Mid Suffolk District Council and SCC are consultees to the project and are responsible for providing environmental information to Progress Power.

Subject to public consultation, planning and financing, the Progress power station could enter commercial operation in 2018. The company claims that it would create 150-250 jobs during construction, and up to 30 full-time jobs once operating.

The plant would be designed to supply power as back-up for the adjacent wind turbines, and hence would be designed to operate flexibly, so that it would not be "always on", and could respond quickly to short term variations in demand and intermittent output from on- and offshore wind power.

The plant would have a maximum height of 30 metres, and the stack a maximum of 90 metres, but much less in the (apparently likely) event that it does not retain heat.

### 2. Planning: enforcement action taken

I am pleased to be able to confirm that the unauthorised dwelling at West Grove House, Mendlesham has now been demolished and full compliance with the enforcement notice has been achieved. This includes the removal of the foundations and septic tank. District councillors disregarded the officers' recommendation in refusing retrospective planning permission.

### 3. Food hygiene: Saffron restaurant, Stowmarket

On May 30<sup>th</sup> management of the restaurant appeared at Bury St Edmunds Magistrates' Court. Evidence for the prosecution was based on an unannounced routine food hygiene inspection carried out by Sara Proctor, a Food & Safety Officer from Mid Suffolk District Council last September. A number of issues were identified, including lack of an implemented food safety management system, lack of staff training, dirty premises, articles and equipment, as well as a lack of protective clothing and facilities for handwashing.

The restaurant was fined £15,000 for a series of food hygiene offences. The company secretary, Mr Ibrahim Ali, pleaded guilty to all six offences.