



## **Together Against Sizewell C**

**Press Release  
No Embargo  
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### **TASC launch partial appeal against court decision in *Girling vs East Suffolk Council* battle over Coronation Wood.**

The legal case of *Girling vs East Suffolk Council* steps up a gear following TASC backing for an appeal against part of a recent High Court ruling. The original challenge, brought by TASC supporter Joan Girling, called for a judicial review of the decision by East Suffolk Council in September 2019 to grant planning permission to the giant French energy company, EDF, which would require cutting down the 100 year-old Coronation Wood to create space for the Sizewell C nuclear development.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> June, the High Court granted permission for the challenge to proceed, an outcome which will be of great discomfort to EDF. Permission was granted on the basis that, arguably, there were deficiencies within the Environmental Impact Assessment relied upon by the Council in making their planning decision. However, as part of the ruling, permission was refused on one other two-part ground of challenge, which included the argument that the proposed development did not satisfy the standard of need required by law to justify a major development in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The decision to lodge the appeal was taken after receiving advice from Joan's legal team.

Joan Girling said 'If the Planning Inspectorate accepts EDF's recently submitted Sizewell C application, the case for SZC may or may not be made, therefore until that time Coronation Wood should not be felled. If EDF fell the entire historic wood prematurely, both the trees and its valuable wildlife will be lost needlessly and will cause yet more industrialisation of the Sizewell landscape and AONB.'

Chris Wilson, TASC Press Officer, said, 'TASC is indebted to Joan for bringing this case and is delighted to support this appeal. TASC believe East Suffolk council need to be brought to book for their woeful disregard to the lawful process required when approving EDF's premature plans to expand their nuclear complex further into Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB destroying Coronation Wood and Pillbox Field in the process.'

'TASC will keep the media informed of developments and would like to thank its legal team from Leigh Day and barristers David Wolfe QC and Ashley Bowes for all their advice and guidance through this challenge and appeal. We also extend our sincere gratitude to all the individuals who responded so generously to the crowd-funding appeal for this case. Please continue to support Joan in her challenge at the following link:

<https://www.crowdjustice.com/case/save-coronation-wood/>

Erin Alcock and Rowan Smith from Leigh Day, who represent Joan Girling said: 'It is crucial at a time of climate catastrophe that proper lawful process is followed by local authority decision makers when valuable green space and natural habitats are at stake. We look forward to working with Joan to progress her case further.'

For further information, contact:

Chris Wilson – Press Officer, 07976 820524

Pete Wilkinson – Chairperson, 01728 660232/08940 524831

Jenny Kirtley – Deputy Chairperson, 01728 668546/07986 317478

Joan Girling – 01728 830965