

County Councillor Report



Walsham-le-Willows Parish Council, September 2023

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Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in Suffolk schools – Schools known to be affected by RAAC include East Bergholt HS, Hadleigh HS, Claydon HS, Farlingaye HS and Stowupland HS. If further schools are confirmed as affected these will be announced as soon as possible. Some schools have already had remedial work completed including Thurston Community College, Glade Academy and Newmarket Academy. The topic of school building programmes will be examined at the Educational and Childrens’ Services Scrutiny meeting on Thursday 7th October, and will now include use of RAAC.

Major Planning/ Shepherd’s Grove Stanton – Evolution’s warehousing application DC/23/1154/OUT at Shepherd’s Grove is live with a deadline for comments by 11th October. CoPart DC/22/1290/HYB is also live although the formal deadline for comments has passed. Both applications have major traffic implications for the area and local roads (A143, A14 and potentially the A140) as well as other potential impacts such water use, contamination and fire risk.

Aura Solar Farm – This clarifies the planning status of the two adjacent solar farm proposals in Palgrave and Wortham.

DC/23/02362 | Request for a Scoping Opinion by AURA under Regulation 15 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017- Proposed solar farm and associated infrastructure. | Marsh Lane Solar Farm At Land North Of Lion Road Palgrave Suffolk. (MSDC Screening Opinion found that it is EIA development)

DC/22/02667 | Planning Application by PACE - Mixed use development comprising installation of a ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) farm; along with continued agricultural use, ancillary infrastructure, substation, security fencing, landscaping provision, ecological enhancements and associated works. | Grange Farm Old Bury Road Palgrave Suffolk IP22 1AZ (MSDC Screening Opinion found that it is not EIA development). The deadline for determination of this application is currently 23rd September 2023, extended from 13th September 2022.

<https://planning.baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RUURSLSH0A200>

Upgraded Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service Training Centre Opened at Wattisham – The centre now has a tactical firefighting facility built on a former cold war missile storage site which uses real fire, and an LPG-fired facility to simulate incidents firefighters may be faced with. The centre was formally declared open at the annual base families’ day on Thursday August 24 by Chief Fire Officer and Colonel Toby R Moore MBE, Station Commander, Wattisham Flying Station.

Norwich to Tilbury Pylon Line – The non-statutory consultation by National Grid is now closed, however discussions are ongoing concerning details of the route and areas that warrant undergrounding, particularly in the Upper Waveney Valley. To contact NG phone +44 (0) 800 151 0992, or contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com. If anyone has missed the deadline do continue to share comments with me and with MP Jo Churchill: jo.churchill.mp@parliament.uk

Electricity System Operator (ESO) Review – a review by ESO into electricity network coordination in East Anglia is delayed – refer to Open Letter in link below. This report will be relevant to plans for the Norwich to Tilbury transmission system and others in the region. In the meantime, National Grid is proceeding with its plans. Note that ESO is a legally separate organisation within the National Grid Group. In 2024, it will transition into the Independent System Operator and Planner – a new organisation which will be owned by Government and wholly independent. Refer to ESO's Open Letter of August 2023 in the following link - <https://www.nationalgrideso.com/future-energy/projects/offshore-coordination-project/east-anglia-study>

LionLink Interconnector Line may come to Walberswick – This National Grid Ventures project has identified a possible landfall at Walberswick, with cable routing north of Southwold. The non-statutory consultation on [National Grid Venture's LionLink project](#) will commence on the 8th September 2023 until 3rd November 2023. According to Cllr Rout, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Environment: *"I'm deeply disappointed that National Grid has chosen to consider such a lengthy and complex cable route. Particularly given the Council's longstanding position that the array of projects coming forward in Suffolk should be properly coordinated"*

2023 Tour of Britain Cycle Rally - The Suffolk stage of the tour will start and finish in Felixstowe and cover approx. 190km visiting Hadleigh, Stowmarket, Debenham and Framlingham. Race details are available on [Taste of the Tour](#) and [Tour of Britain | 2023 Tour](#) websites

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