

County Councillor Report



Walsham Parish Council, April 2024

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Consultation on Devolution Proposals - A 10-week public consultation on our proposed devolution deal with the Government runs from 18th March until 26th May. The consultation is available through our website www.suffolk.gov.uk/devolution and social media. The matter will be debated later this summer at full council.

National Grid Pylons Consultation – Commenced on 10th April and runs for 10 weeks until 18th June. Note that in 2023, National Grid committed to review its Norwich to Tilbury proposals against the conclusions of ESO’s Offshore Coordination Study. For details including the preliminary environmental impact report (PEIR) and a survey refer to: nationalgrid.com/norwich-to-tilbury

The following public events will be (or have been) held:

Tuesday 30 April 2024 12-5pm	Gislingham Village Hall, Mill Street, Gislingham, IP23 8JT
Wednesday 1 May 2024 11am-4pm	Copdock Village Hall, Old London Road, Copdock, IP8 3JN
Friday 3 May 2024 1-6pm	Needham Market Community Centre, School St, Needham Market, Ipswich, IP6 8BB
Saturday 4 May 2024 11am-4pm	Lawford Venture Centre 2000, Bromley Road, Lawford, Manningtree, CO11 2JE
Thursday 9 May 2024 2-7pm	Thorpe Hall, Ashwell Thorpe and Fundenhall Community Centre, Muskett Road, Ashwellthorpe, NR16 1FD
Friday 10 May 2024 1-6pm	Tibenham Community Hall, Pristow Green Lane, Tibenham, Norwich, NR16 1PX
Wednesday 15 May 2024 1-6pm	Diss Town Football Club, Diss, IP22 4QP

Electricity Supply Operator Offshore Coordination Study – This study is relevant to National Grid’s proposals for Norwich to Tilbury. The [ESO East Anglia Network Study](#) was published on 12 March 2024 by The National Grid Electricity System Operator, this was set up to explore options for transmitting power in Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex including onshore, offshore and hybrid schemes, and undergrounding. National Grid has committed to take the results of this study into account in designing the electricity distribution system for this region. A summary of ESO’s findings follows:

Following the preliminary screening assessment, network configuration options have undergone holistic assessment using the above methodology. These are set out below:

- 1. Predominately offshore option – variation without EACN (connection point in N. Essex)*
- 2. Predominately offshore option – variation with EACN*
- 3. Onshore option*
- 4. Alternative onshore option – variation without Bramford to EACN*
- 5. Alternative onshore option – variation without EACN b. Alternative onshore option – variation without EACN – sensitivity*
- 6. Hybrid onshore and offshore option – variation with EACN*
- 7. Hybrid onshore and offshore option – variation without EACN*
- 8. Onshore High Voltage (HVDC) option*
- 9. Predominantly offshore option – Utilising Bradwell as a landing point.*

Aura/ Marsh Lane 30 MW Solar Farm PDC/23/05426 - Land North Of Lion Road, Palgrave Part In The Parishes Of Wortham And Diss. Up to 30MW and 58 hectares of solar arrays; site access tracks; inverters and transformers; containers. Waiting on committee date.

White Elm 200 MW Solar Farm (NSIP) with Battery Storage in Mendlesham, Thwaite and Gislingham area – The White Elm proposal is Nationally Significant Infrastructure as it exceeds 50 MW. It covers 750 acres and will be determined by the Secretary of State. The next step is for a Scoping Opinion to be issued, anticipated shortly. *The site is located 7.5 Km north of Stowmarket and west of the A140 between Wickham Skeith, Thwaite, Mendlesham and Cotton.*

Road Surfacing – The surface dressing programme begins this week, 102 roads will be surface dressed and a further 319 will receive full machine resurfacing during the coming year. For more information on surface dressing and to view this year’s programme please visit: [Surface dressing](#) For resurfacing please visit: [Road Resurfacing](#)

School Travel – Council funded school travel notices will be sent by 10th May 2024 with details of how to opt-in. Parents or carers with a child born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020 who have not yet applied for a school place should apply immediately. Refer to the [School Admission pages](#) or by contacting Suffolk County Council on 0345 600 0981.

Waveney Valley Landscape Assessment - The “[Valued Landscape Assessment](#)” was jointly commissioned by Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils. The study provides evidence of the site’s importance, sensitivity and vulnerability to various new energy proposals. It was undertaken by leading landscape consultancy, Alison Farmer Associates, look at the landscape of the Waveney Valley, outside The Broads National Park.

Suffolk Walking Festival - Kicks off on Saturday 11 May and takes place over two weeks with walks to suit all ages. Tickets for this year’s walk are now on sale, visit www.suffolkwalkingfestival.co.uk .

Please get in touch with me if you have questions or comments: Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk
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