

# A Report for Groton Parish Council Meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 From James Finch – County Councillor for the Stour Valley

Tel: 01206 263649 Mobile 07545 423796 Email: [james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk)

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# A Report for Groton Parish Council Meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 From James Finch – County Councillor for the Stour Valley

Tel: 01206 263649 Mobile 07545 423796 Email: [james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk)

## ➤ **The Remaining Public Meetings / Exhibitions scheduled on the Bramford to Twinstead National Grid Reinforcement to support Residents response to the National Grid Consultation.**

To help you with your responses to National Grid I recommend that you visit one of these exhibitions below. The Nayland event on 25<sup>th</sup> February was well attended.

Venues	Date	Time
Hadleigh Town Hall, The Guildhall, Hadleigh, IP7 5DN	Thursday 3 March	12pm-8pm
Hintlesham and Chattisham Community Hall, Timperleys, Hintlesham, IP8 3PS	Friday 4 March	10am-4:30pm
Sudbury Masonic Hall, North Street, Sudbury, CO10 1NA	Saturday 5 March	10am-5pm

I recommend that the following headings are addressed:-

- *proposed route of the new 400kV electricity line*
- *extent of undergrounding and overgrounding of the new 400kV electricity line*
- *location and form of cable sealing end compounds*
- *removal of the existing 132kV overhead electricity line*
- *location and form of a new Grid Supply Point Substation at Butlers Wood*
- *construction methodology*
- *likely environmental effects arising from the project*
- *potential environmental mitigation identified to reduce likely significant effects*
- *preliminary locations for biodiversity net gain and/or wider environmental gains.*

I will be circulating under separate cover the draft Suffolk County Council response to National Grid and my Speech at the Cabinet meeting yesterday asking for some amendments. The deadline for your submissions is 21<sup>st</sup> March.

## ➤ **Council welcomes renewed Government efforts to reduce impact of offshore wind on Suffolk Communities**

It was announced on 8<sup>th</sup> February that the Government recognises Suffolk's communities need to see tangible and substantive benefits from the Offshore Transmission Network Review.

Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council have welcomed the renewed effort, announced by the Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) on 31 January, to try to ensure that Suffolk communities benefit from coordinated connections of offshore wind before 2030.

As part of a webinar on the Offshore Transmission Network Review, it was announced that BEIS officials would be initiating a program of activity working with offshore wind developers, inter-connectors, and the onshore transmission owner, facilitated by the trade body Renewable UK, to explore more ambitious regional coordination with a specific focus on East Anglia.

It was acknowledged during the webinar, that proposals currently put forward by developers identifying early opportunities for coordination, particularly in East Anglia, could go further.

This work will run in parallel with the Holistic Network Design (HND), expected to be published in June 2022, which will set out the required onshore network reinforcements and how the connections of future offshore wind projects coming through the seabed leasing process will be coordinated.

## ➤ **Good news for Suffolk - Government gives the green light to negotiate a County Deal**

In August last year Suffolk's Public Sector Leaders of all the Suffolk Local authorities made efforts to secure from the Government a devolution deal for Suffolk. At the same time as the publication of the Levelling Up White Paper, we heard the news that Suffolk was successfully chosen as one of nine areas across the country to have been given the opportunity of negotiating a new County Deal.

One of the questions still to be answered is "what would a deal mean for Suffolk? Our commitment is that this deal will mean more local decision making led by the County Council in conjunction with all the authorities in the interests of Suffolk residents. But, to clarify we do not have a deal yet, and we have many more months of negotiations and discussions with Government ahead of us before we can look to finalise an actual deal.

## ➤ Residents urged to support Suffolk spectacular

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