

Councillor Eburne

East Anglia GREEN Consultation Response submitted to Cabinet 6 June 2022

Dear Cabinet,

My apologies that I will not be at the Cabinet meeting on Monday. I also waited until feedback from last night's Parish Council meeting (Wednesday 1st June) before sending this.

Many residents and businesses in my ward, particularly in Old Newton, Gipping, Stowupland and Saxham Street, will be greatly affected by the proposed route of new high voltage pylons from Norwich to Bramford to Tilbury. The proposals have been discussed at local parish council meetings and in person to me.

When you consider the Mid Suffolk District Council response to the East Anglia Green Energy Enablement consultation, I ask that you please include the points that they have raised.

- There is concern that the consultation has not been well-advertised.
- There are no benefits to local communities, not even from the low carbon power as this is being directed to other areas of the country.
- The landscape, hugely valued by those who live here, will be scarred forever.
- The tourism industry will be negatively impacted for visitors and for businesses serving these visitors.
- Farms will lose agricultural land and the disruption during the building of the pylons will adversely affect business.
- SSSI sites or County Wildlife Sites are not being considered adequately for protection. For example, the proposal is for these huge pylons to run alongside Gipping Great Wood. Many voluntary groups do a lot of work locally to conserve and protect these sites making them pleasant spaces for all.
- Biodiversity is already suffering and while communities are involved in work to improve this (both Stowupland and Old Newton have biodiversity groups), this will be a big set-back.
- There will be a great impact on listed buildings and other heritage assets which are of great importance in defining our local area.
- There has been no prior public consultation on alternatives, such as under-sea cabling, despite this consultation showing a proposed under-sea cabling project from Sizewell to Kent.
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The overwhelming preference is for an off-shore, under-sea approach and there is great concern that this is not being considered and national policy is overriding local opinion.

On this final point, please can the District Council lobby the two local MPs, Jo Churchill and Dan Poulter, for a change not just in national policy but in the way that it is applied so that our communities' quality of life has more importance in the decision-making of major infrastructure projects such as this.

Thanks for your consideration.

Kind regards

Rachel

Rachel Eburne

Mid Suffolk District Councillor (Green)

- Ward Member for Haughley, Stowupland & Wetherden (including Old Newton & Gipping)
- Jointly with Councillor Keith Welham