

Parish Report – September 2023

Councillor

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Pylon plan not supported by SCC

Suffolk County Council is objecting the latest proposals by the National Grid to install 114 miles of electricity pylons across the county as part of the “Norwich to Tilbury” project. A number of objections have been raised about the 33 mile stretch of the new works which would run through Suffolk, which includes installing a stretch of cabling under the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The council is continuing to press for an offshore solution to be fully researched and considered.

Onshore facility proposal for Suffolk Coast

Suffolk County Council was disappointed to learn that the LionLink interconnector project from National Grid Ventures has identified an alternative landfall at Walberswick, with cable routing making its way to the north of Southwold.

The Lionlink project aims to connect multiple offshore wind farms in the North Sea, instead of individual wind farms connecting one by one to the shore. The project is a joint venture between the UK and the Netherlands, supplying energy to both countries.

The Council will study the details of the new proposals, and will prepare its response to the National Grid’s second public consultation, which opens on 8 September.

New Fire and Rescue Service Training Centre

The Suffolk Fire and Rescue Training Centre at Wattisham has had a £1.3m upgrade and was formally opened on 24 August. This includes a new tactical firefighting facility to simulate incidents firefighters may be faced with and help them prepare for the dangerous work they undertake in the community.

R.A.A.C

In the last few days we have all become familiar with Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete, R.A.A.C. In Suffolk, 4 schools are confirmed as being affected (East Bergholt High, Hadleigh High, and Claydon High and Stowupland High) remedial works had already taken place in 3 other affected schools, with Bacton Middle School already demolished. The affected structures in Stowupland High School are limited in number, so the High school remains open and able to fully function on site.

Support for Ukrainian refugees moving to private rented accommodation

In May, Suffolk County Council announced a one-off £2,000 support grant for Ukrainian refugees moving on from their host into their own accommodation.

The Independent Living Payment is available to any Ukrainian refugees moving into private rented accommodation after 1 April 2023. Guests must have been living in Suffolk for a minimum of two months and be registered on the Suffolk Homes for Ukraine scheme to be eligible for the payment. This funding can be used for any associated housing costs, including furniture, moving costs or travel to work. The support can be

used towards accommodation which is furnished or unfurnished, and accommodation can be in Suffolk or out of county.

Ukrainian guests can apply for the Independent Living Payment and completing the application form on the Suffolk County Council website:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/communities/community-engagement/support-for-refugees/support-for-ukraine/ukraine-information-for-guests>

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Cost of Living help and advice:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/family.page?familychannel=6>

Benefits advice and support:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/adult.page?adultchannel=0>