

Stoke Holy Cross District Councillor Report 20th June 2024

Grants

Applications for member ward grants and for larger Communities Action Fund grants (£1,000 to £15,000) have now reopened. CAF closes at end June.

Leadership of South Norfolk Council

As expected, Cllr. Elmer has been elected leader of the Conservative Group and was elected as leader of South Norfolk Council at the full council AGM on 20th May. Cllr. Sharon Blundell, a Liberal Democratic representative for Costessey, was elected Chair for the year. Following the Bunwell by-election, the Conservatives now hold exactly 50% of the elected posts.

Community Employability Grants

South Norfolk and Broadland Councils have funded 11 grants across the districts to help individuals support customers to overcome barriers to employment and training. The Council Help Hub can help residents access the relevant organisations.

Flood Management

The Environment Agency has published (earlier in the year) a simple guide to flood management for farmers and landowners. It can be found [here](#).

Town & Country Forum

The Council provides a monthly online update for Parish Councils. The next meeting is scheduled for 11am on Tuesday 11th July.

An in-person event is planned for 9.30 am -12.30 pm on Wednesday 13th November.

‘Norwich to Tilbury’ Update

As a result of the announcement of the General Election, the consultation period for National Grid’s proposed electricity transmission network has been extended until Friday 26 July 2024.

The online webinars have also been rescheduled until after the election. Registration links for those relevant to Norfolk follow: the webinar on [Wednesday 10 July](#) covers the proposed route of the pylons in North Suffolk and Norfolk; while the webinar on [Thursday 18 July](#) is an overview session.

Full information can be found on the National Grid’s consultation website. Finally, documents can be inspected at Long Stratton Library and Norwich Library.

At the Norfolk County Council Planning and Highways Committee Meeting on 10th June, the Council agreed to object to the Norwich-Tilbury proposal. Specifically, the Council agreed:

- “ 1. To RAISE an objection to the current proposal in light of the recent ESO Study (March 2024) and the alternative transmission options outlined in that study;*
- 2. To ASK National Grid to “pause” their current proposal and consider the alternative options with the ESO; Department for Energy Security and Net Zero; and local stakeholders;*
- 3. To SUPPORT in principle either an offshore option or, if this was proved undeliverable, an undergrounded onshore option;*

4. To AGREE that in the event of an onshore option being taken forward, National Grid should commit to delivering wider benefits and opportunities to provide power to meet the needs of existing and planned growth in Norfolk; and contribute towards funding an Energy Plan for the County;

5. To WELCOME National Grid's proposal to underground part of the route to the west of Diss (Waveney Valley Alternative), but would like to see this underground area expanded to the entire length of Norfolk. "

A detailed set of papers is being submitted to the consultation by NCC.

PylonsEastAnglia are continuing to develop their campaign against the pylon proposals and have put together some high-level advice for Parish Council's wishing to object to the Norwich Tilbury proposal. For further information visit <https://pylonseastanglia.co.uk/actions>

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