

Infrastructure and Development Select Committee
17 May 2023
Public & Local Member Questions

Agenda item 5	Public Question Time
5.1	<p>Question from Sandra Betts NCC Climate Strategy, 15th March 2023 - page 68 2.4.5. - What actions are you taking to promote an offshore transmission network? Do you actively support the efforts of the Norfolk Parishes Movement for an OTN or are you planning to make contact with them to work on this together with your residents?</p> <p>Response from the Chair With regard to your first question, the County Council is working closely with National Grid and other Local Authorities to support an integrated offshore alternative to the current proposals being made for a new overhead (400kV) powerline between Norwich Main and Tilbury in Essex (known as East Anglia Green - EAG). In responding to National Grid's Non-Statutory Consultation on EAG in June 2022 the County Council indicated, inter alia, that it:</p> <p>".... would strongly urge National Grid and the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to consider: (a) An offshore option – involving some form of offshore transmission network capable of delivering power direct from source to where it is most needed in London and the South-East...."</p> <p>The County Council is working with its counterparts in Suffolk and Essex County Councils, along with South Norfolk District Council to question National Grid as to whether they have considered all alternative options for EAG; and whether there is a demonstrable need for an over-land solution at this time.</p> <p>In addition, the County Council is in regular contact with BEIS on offshore transmission matters; and working with local MPs to ensure that consideration of an offshore alternative to EAG is taken forward by National Grid.</p> <p>On your second question, as a statutory consultee on a number of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIPs) - covering offshore windfarms and onshore transmission proposals - the County Council has supported the principle of (a) renewable energy and (b) an offshore transmission network.</p> <p>The County Council broadly supports the Norfolk Parishes Movement in their pursuit for an OTN; and would be happy to engage with them on matters of common ground to promote an offshore transmission network.</p>
5.1	<p>Question from Geoffrey Reeve In what circumstances and under whose authority is a Highways Development Management Officer permitted to reduce the strict requirement for the dimensions of a visibility splay and to allow not only visibility over third party land but also a reduced width of an access road on a Planning Application for new housing? Particularly when this could cause a serious if not fatal accident on a busy road in central Thetford used by many pedestrians going to and from the Town centre to visit shops or attend schools or GP surgeries etc. All contrary to the Government's "Manual for Streets 2007" and your own "Safe and Sustainable Development 2015".</p> <p>Response from the Chair The visibility requirements and access widths contained in "Manual for Streets" and</p>

	<p>“Safe Sustainable Development” are intended as guidance to be applied by professionally qualified practitioners who exercise professional judgement based upon the specific characteristics of each site. When deciding if it is appropriate to sight a visibility splay over third-party land, several factors are taken into consideration, but mainly the prospect of the land becoming obstructed in the future.</p> <p>In the planning application Mr Reeve refers to, (1) a parallel splay is provided (instead of a triangular splay) which has the benefit of securing safe visibility for two neighbouring properties where visibility is currently restricted (2) the applicants provided a full topographic survey demonstrating the splay does NOT cross third party land (3) we have asked for the access to be widened.</p>
Agenda item 6	Local Member Issues/Questions
6.1	<p>Question from Cllr Ed Maxfield</p> <p>It was good to finally see some North Norfolk projects included in the Strategic Infrastructure Development Plan, particularly investment in the Weavers Way. Some years ago I suggested that investment in the Paston Way between North Walsham and Mundesley to make the route fully accessible for cyclists, wheelchairs and pushchairs could significantly increase active travel along the route to schools and shops and work. How are new projects invited on to the Plan and decisions made about what should be included?</p> <p>Response from the Chair</p> <p>The Norfolk Strategic Infrastructure Delivery Plan (NSIDP) is reviewed annually as projects are progressed through to delivery and new schemes come forward. The production of the 2023 NSIDP begins in May where Planning and Economic Development officers from the County and District Councils work jointly to update progress on existing projects and propose new projects to be included in the next version of the plan. To be included in the plan projects have to meet the following criteria: delivering significant housing and jobs growth, identified in existing plans/programme and have a committed route to delivery. We will raise this project suggestion with colleagues both from the County Council and North Norfolk District Council so inclusion can be considered for the next iteration of the plan.</p>