**District Councillor Ian Spratt**

**Pylons up-date 18th May 2023**

Essex Suffolk and Norfolk Pylons, Rosie Pearson met with Andrew Bowie, Minister for Nuclear and & Networks together with, , [**Suffolk Energy Action Solutions - SEAS**](https://www.facebook.com/SuffolkEnergyActionSolutions/?__cft__%5B0%5D=AZWD3K8LQ332QH-6aqv9lXenFikOTwDhs639PSAMrtnmh2AXO0p52LyQ0gzMQbs-b2xuhQX7tv4t08d0nFpYhgvER2ksNJWZK7EbeAQAGjdQ4SFFz2dNOEuLTkCtyslPJqWTPdBv_A8IAGXuHe5SciYELFJ6YxhNNGdw8ZAfb25C18BrCiov04TBL96BzGhS8_g&__tn__=kK-R) & John Foster, plus a few local councillors, MP Therese Coffey, some officials and Mike Elmer from National Grid.

Mr Bowie spent two days in Suffolk, including a Sizewell visit and met with parish councils in Aldeburgh to talk about the offer from Grant Schapps regarding community inducements (I mentioned this in reports prior to the election)

John Foster and Rosie Pearson pointed out that an offshore grid is quite possible, technically, legally and legislatively. Mr Bowie was given Charles Banner KC's latest opinion: **‘There are nothing but benefits - it's £2bn cheaper, better for the environment, better for communities and even better for the smooth running of the grid’.**

We asked them to look at brownfield landing sites, we told them what the Europeans are up to, and we said there is no need for pylons. And we made the point that Government has already made a start towards an integrated grid with its 'Lion' Link (was Eurolink, but I doubt we're allowed to use the word 'euro' these days) which connects UK, wind farms, an energy island and Holland.

The outcome was that Mike Elmer was responsive and said that the situation would require a pause, to get ducks in a row if this was to be the approach taken. He's spent a lot of time overseas so he's fully aware of the offshore grid approaches others take.

Mr Bowie definitely listened. He didn't use any political platitudes. He didn't try to fob the group off with community benefits. He said that our MPs, in OFFSET, are very effective at Westminster and gave the impression that he would do his utmost to help.

In the email I’ve received Rosie Pearson states, ‘WE HAVE DEFINITELY BEEN HEARD. ALL YOUR EMAILS AND PETITION SIGNING AND BANNERS HAVE BEEN WORTH IT!

**(DO NOT GO OFF GUARD, THOUGH!!! WE NEED TO KEEP FIGHTING AND LOBBYING.**

**Background**

Wind farms ‘North Falls’ and ‘Five Estuaries’ have both been told by National Grid to connect into East Anglia Green PYLONS. We have met with both and they would happily connect offshore instead. Much of National Grid's justification for the pylons is these two wind farms. We therefore need them to connect offshore.  
North Falls is running its second consultation NOW, until 14 July.

Suggested EMAIL TO SEND:

To:  [contact@northfallsoffshore.com](mailto:contact@northfallsoffshore.com)  
cc. YOUR MP  
Subject: North Falls offshore connection essential

*Dear Sir or Madam*

*I support in general terms your proposals to generate green electricity through offshore wind farms.*

*However, I object in the strongest terms to the unnecessary connection onshore. This will result in tunnelling and trenching to place underground cables through Tendring, and a sub-station near to Lawford, Ardleigh, very near to the Dedham Vale AONB. That connection is into the unpopular East Anglia GREEN pylons proposal which has many contentious years in the planning system ahead of it.*  
*Therefore, we are delighted to see that you are also looking at an offshore connection.*

*In answer to Question 2, in your consultation, “What outcome would you like from the OTNR?” we are wholeheartedly in favour of your Option 3 Connection, “Offshore electrical connection supplied by a third-party electricity network provider.”, to be identified through the OTNR process.*

*The damaging onshore connection is unnecessary because both North Falls and Five Estuaries could connect offshore. National Grid ESO has already carried out advanced scenario testing of offshore coordination options.*

*We thank you for the work you have already done with regards to the offshore connection and we look forward to seeing this work bear fruit with the abandonment of the onshore connection.*

Your faithfully,

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There was also a lead piece on ITV News Anglia following the visit by Mr Bowie. Rosie was interviewed and stated that in her opinion he was the first Minister to `actually listen to their concerns…’

Sewage was also mentioned on the programme with concerns about the amount of sewage pumped into the rivers in the area by Anglian Water.