



Enquiries to: NSIPS Team Suffolk County Council

NSIPs@suffolk.gov.uk

Date: 17/10/2025

BY EMAIL

Dear Parish and Town Councillors,

Norwich to Tilbury Pylon Line s56 Notification - Parish Council representation at the Examination of the Norwich to Tilbury Pylon proposals

I am writing to you regarding the Norwich to Tilbury Pylon project and the recent letter to Parishes from the Examining Authority under s56 of the Planning Act 2008.

What is being proposed?

Norwich to Tilbury is a proposal to build a new 400 kilovolt (kV) electricity transmission connection for approximately 180 kilometres from the Norwich Main substation via Bramford substation in Suffolk, a new East Anglia Connection Node (EACN) Substation, in Essex, and a new Tilbury North Substation.

Following submission, the Planning Inspectorate carried out an initial review of the application, and on Friday 26 September accepted the application for examination.

The Role of the County Council

Suffolk County Council is not the decision maker for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP), consented under the Planning Act 2008. Energy projects such as this proposal are decided by the Secretary of State at the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero, currently the Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP. The County Council, as well as the District Councils, are only Statutory Consultees in the process. Therefore, while we have an important role in the process, the ultimate decision on whether to consent or refuse the application is one for government.

The role of Parish Councils and information to support them

I wanted to highlight the information that is now available to support Parish and Town Councils, and to highlight some key issues and actions that it would be appropriate for you to consider at this point in the process.

It is important to recognise the status of town and parish councils in the consenting of NSIPs. **Relevant parish and town councils are statutory consultees** in the Nationally Significant Infrastructure planning process, as set out in the list of prescribed consultees in Schedule 1 of the *Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009*.

Guidance on the NSIP process, specifically tailored for Town and Parish Councils, has been prepared by Suffolk County Council and the Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC).

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/major-infrastructure-projects-including-nsips/nationally-significant-infrastructure-project-nsip-information/nsip-information-for-town-and-parish-councils>

<https://www.salc.org.uk/national-strategic-infrastructure-projects-nsips>

To participate in the Examination process Parish Councils will need to register as Interested Parties, the Deadline to Register is the 27 November, via:

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020027/register/register-have-your-say>

On other projects, in a few instances, Parishes have missed the deadline for registration as an Interested Party, and have therefore been unable participate in the Examination

The need for effective engagement with the examination

Notwithstanding any overall objection you, or we, may have to the principle of the project and our opposition to it, it is important that we engage with the process to attempt to mitigate and minimise the impacts, should the Secretary of State grant consent. Therefore, I recommend that parish and town councils engage with the Examination whenever possible, seeking to shape, change, and improve the project whenever the opportunity arises.

As town and parish councils are statutory consultees, they have an opportunity to make a relevant representation to the examination process. I suggest that they should,

- identify specific issues with the scheme which are a relevant and specific concerns for your town or parish.
- set out potential solutions to the problems that you have identified, that could be implemented by the applicant and the examining authority. Though either, modification to the construction and operation of the scheme, or through additional mitigation measures, or through control measures during construction.

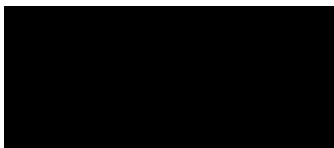
It is important to recognise that the Examination can only deal with the application that is before it, therefore representations should not be dominated by lengthy discussion of either, in principal objections to the scheme, or discussion of alternative options that cannot be considered by the examination panel.

Rather, it is appropriate for your representations to make mention of such issues, if this is required, as this will provide the context for the substantive issues you wish to raise with the examination.

I would be happy to meet with you either virtually or in person, to ensure that your concerns can inform the County Council's engagement with the examination, as well as forming part of your own submissions. In order to have standing in the process, it is essential that you make individual submissions as town and parish councils. The SALC guidance above sets this out in more detail.

If you consider it helpful, I look forward to meeting with you in the near future. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to email nsips@suffolk.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully,



Richard Rout

Cabinet Member for Devolution, Local Government Reform, Environment and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects