

## Ardleigh Parish Council Newsletter August 2023

The Ardleigh Advertiser is online-only this month <https://ardleighadvertiser.wixsite.com/mysite/current-issue>  
This is an alternative update to ensure that Ardleigh residents are aware of key issues and deadlines this month.

### National Grid 'Norwich to Tilbury' Pylons, Substations and Windfarms

National Grid (NG) have launched a further consultation which runs only until **21 August**. PLEASE RESPOND TO THIS CONSULTATION- tips below. There are changes to the proposals for Ardleigh in that one line of pylons would become underground cabling. The site of the main National Grid substation is confirmed to be within Ardleigh. Our Parish Council will submit detailed comments and continues to object to this damaging project and to push for an integrated off-shore grid. To download our consultation responses so far (plus the latest response when complete) see [www.ardleigh.website/pylons-and-substation](http://www.ardleigh.website/pylons-and-substation)

### Suggestions on how to respond to National Grid's consultation

- Either use National Grid's consultation form: <https://norwich-tilbury.participatr.io/> Or send an email to [contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com) (include your name, address and postcode)
- Please start every email or every box in the online survey with the following or similar:

*"There is no need for this destructive project which will have a devastating impact on Ardleigh and the surrounding area. We want an integrated offshore grid in the North Sea as it has been shown by National Grid ESO to save £2bn and to reduce overall infrastructure by 50%. We support and endorse the submission of the Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons Action group."*

Our goal is to prove that the project brings more harm than benefit. That sounds easy, but the Planning Inspector will have to balance national benefit with local harm. Some **local harm** includes; **Landscape impact** Ardleigh village will be circled on three sides by cabling and will be the site of the NG substation (plus several additional windfarm substations close by). Pylons will run very close to the centre of the village and across the flat landscape adjacent to the AONB. Add examples of views you would lose, and the loss of landscape quality, scenic quality, relative tranquillity etc.

**Heritage Impact** Ours is mediaeval village with many listed buildings and a conservation area from which several pylons would be visible.

**Biodiversity impact** The planned pylon route goes across a fishing lake earmarked as a Protected Green Space in the Ardleigh Neighbourhood Plan and crosses part of Ardleigh Reservoir. There would be a pylon within the new Country Park (off Wick Lane) once minerals extraction is complete. Think about impact on both landscape and biodiversity in our area.

**Impact on local businesses including farms** Many productive arable fields will be lost or damaged for this project at a time when food security is vital. Will your business be affected? Say how.

**Archaeology** Ardleigh has had many archaeological finds, there are crop circles and an ancient monument close to the site of the NG substation. The proposed underground section from the substation skirts the edge of this ancient monument and will inevitably dig and disturb ground in an historically significant area.

**Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons Campaign Group Walk Sunday 13 August from 10.30am** (photos and refreshments from 10am) from Skylark, Prettyfields Vineyard, Dead Lane CO7 7PF. This will be a sociable circular walk around Ardleigh which will take in sections of the proposed pylon route and the location of the proposed substations. The full circular walk is around 4 ½ miles, feel free to join us for all or part of it to suit you, even if that means just meeting up at the start and finish. If possible, RSVP [esnwalk-ardleigh@mail.com](mailto:esnwalk-ardleigh@mail.com) to get an idea of numbers and for further updates. Dogs welcome.

**Enclosed leaflet** Please find attached a flyer from the campaign group formed to oppose the pylons and substations associated with the National Grid "Norwich to Tilbury" proposal. The group fully understands the need to transmit the enormous amount of energy being generated by the North Sea windfarms.

However, it considers the onshore solution proposed by National Grid to be wrong due to the incredible harm it will cause to our region. The group is campaigning for an offshore grid to be built instead. Studies have shown that a coordinated offshore grid would save £2bn and require 50% less infrastructure.

The campaign group is active on many fronts and the enclosed flyer relates to the current urgent need for the Secretary of State for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) to engage with the group and its MP representatives. Please complete and return the form as indicated on the flyer as well as responding to the consultation before the deadline set by National Grid **21 August 2023**.

There is lots of helpful information on the Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk Pylons campaign website [www.pylonseastanglia.co.uk](http://www.pylonseastanglia.co.uk) such as further advice on completing the National Grid Consultation Feedback Form, a link to the National Grid interactive map, the ability to sign-up for regular email updates and a link to the petition or to buy t-shirts, caps, banners etc. Plus a link to their active Facebook group.

**Protecting Trees near to Pylons, underground cables and substations.** Where we believe that a tree or trees are at risk, then we can request that a new Tree Protection Order (TPO) be made to protect them. Please send photos of any trees you would like to be protected on, or adjacent to, the above routes using [ardleighnp@gmail.com](mailto:ardleighnp@gmail.com) together with an accurate location (preferably using what3words) and the type of tree if you know it. We will collate these to produce a plan showing the position of trees believed to be at risk, and forward this to Tendring District Council for them to inspect the trees to assess their health, condition, and amenity value along with the degree of the threat to their retention.

**Date for your diary** There will be a public meeting for Ardleigh and Little Bromley residents with Sir Bernard Jenkin MP and members of the campaign group at Ardleigh Village Hall on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September** in the evening. The nature of a project such as this means that it will be long fight, with further stages ahead and undoubtedly many twists & turns! However, the more that people support the campaign, the stronger it is.

### Other updates

**New Food Storage and Distribution Centre Wick Lane/ Old Ipswich Road** Disappointingly, Tendring District Council has now approved the application for the huge food storage and distribution facility and associated parking, logistics yard and offices adjacent to Wick Lane (application number 20/00594/FUL). We now have 6 weeks from the date of the decision (13 July) to consider the updates and submit a Judicial Review application. A fighting fund is in place to help fund the case. Please email us if you are able to help.

**Wick Lane /Dead Lane junction** A proposal for one or two short stretches of one-way traffic between the A137 and the dangerous Dead Lane/ Wick Lane junction has now been put to the Local Highways Panel by our County Councillor. This will be assessed by Highways engineers and, if they consider it viable, considered by the Panel.

**Potholes, Damaged Road Signs, Overgrown Footpaths, Hedges and Vegetation** Please keep reporting all of these via the online Essex County Council Highways 'tell us' tool <https://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us>. This is a very quick and simple process. Once you have made the report, if you email the report number to us we can monitor and escalate via our County Councillor if necessary. Homeowners and landowners are reminded to keep their hedges and other vegetation trimmed so that pavements and footpaths remain passable to pedestrians, including those with prams or wheelchairs.

**Village Hall and Recreation Ground Car Park** The Council is aware of the need to improve the surface the Village Hall and Recreation Ground car park and is looking at ways to fund this through grants. In the meantime, please take care on uneven surfaces. Users are reminded that the car parks are for use of Village Hall and Recreation Ground users only (plus one business who have a longstanding arrangement).

**Ardleigh Climate and Environment Group** An exploratory meeting of a new Ardleigh Positive Actions for Climate and Environment (PACE) Group was well attended with ideas for energy saving, recycling, solar panels and electric vehicle charging discussed. More information via [carolyn.mason@ardleigh-pc.gov.uk](mailto:carolyn.mason@ardleigh-pc.gov.uk)

**Our contact details** Email [info@ardleigh-pc.gov.uk](mailto:info@ardleigh-pc.gov.uk). Write Ardleigh Parish Council, PO Box 12865, Colchester, CO7 7EZ. Telephone (answerphone) 01206 414989. Website [www.ardleigh.website](http://www.ardleigh.website). Facebook (@ardleighpc and @ardleighvh for the Village Hall) and Instagram (@ardleighnp).

# THE PYLONS ARE BACK



## NATIONAL GRID IGNORED YOU

2nd CONSULTATION: STILL PYLONS!

- 1 Visit: [www.pylonseastanglia.co.uk](http://www.pylonseastanglia.co.uk)
- 2 Email your MP today
- 3 Send the postcard below



...Cut here and send this postcard to the Energy Minister...



### YES! OFFSHORE GRID

A coordinated offshore grid for East Anglia saves consumers £2bn & requires 50% less infrastructure. Studies in 2011, 2015 & 2020 showed the benefits to the environment, communities and builds in climate change resilience.

### SAVE THIS



### NO! PYLONS

PYLONS are unpopular, old-fashioned & unnecessary. There will be huge habitat loss along 180km: wildlife displaced, trees & hedgerows destroyed & bird strikes with cables. Historic, cultural & scenic views (and tourism) at risk.

## Act now!

# 180KM of PYLONS 50M HIGH

- 12M WIDE ACCESS ROADS
- SUBSTATIONS & BUILDINGS
- TREES & HEDGES RIPPED UP - BIRD DEATHS
- HISTORIC LANDSCAPES DESTROYED
- **100M WIDE TRENCHES FOR UNDERGROUNDING IN DEDHAM VALE**

Tell National Grid to 'Bog Off(shore)'

National Grid email: [contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com)



...Cut flyer here and send postcard to the Energy Minister...

## STOP THROWING US UNDER A BUS

STAMP  
HERE

***Stop Essex Suffolk  
Norfolk Pylons***

**I demand an  
OFFSHORE GRID for  
the East of England!**

Your comments:

Your name:

Your address:

To the SECRETARY OF STATE

Department for  
Energy Security & Net Zero  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET