

## ECC report from Cllr Steel

### East Anglia GREEN – from Norwich to Tilbury - UPDATE

#### **ECC**

ECC have now produced a response as follows which strongly objects to the current proposed route:

Press Release:

#### **Essex County Council statement on National Grid's East Anglia Green project**

Cllr Lesley Wagland OBE, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Economic Renewal, Infrastructure and Planning, said: "Essex County Council intends to object in the strongest possible terms to the proposals being put forward in the non-statutory consultation in respect of National Grid's East Anglia Green project.

"The County Council, along with residents, districts and parishes have only had a very short time to respond to the proposed scheme and have had very little engagement prior to May 2022 on the proposals.

"We have clearly expressed our ambition to be net zero by 2050 and the production of power from windfarms is a critical part of this, however, we have serious concerns not only about the route, but also how carbon heavy the proposed scheme of overhead pylons is.

"We are of the view that there has been insufficient consideration of alternative approaches which would allow for the required infrastructure but without the sheer scale of the damage to the environment, landscape and the difficulties of this project going ahead, all at the same time as multiple large-scale infrastructure projects which have the potential to cause major disruption across the East of England.

"We believe that new offshore generated electricity should be transmitted offshore, which is why we need an offshore grid. This is firmly in the interests of business - both offshore windfarms themselves and wider interests e.g. our Freeports - and would help to futureproof the network. Such an alternative approach could avoid all the physical constraints of an above or below-ground solution, retain ease of access for ongoing maintenance and provide a more direct point of connection for any current or future off-shore wind farms. This is a much better option and one which would be more likely to receive support from ourselves and residents.

"We are working with the leaders of the city, district and borough councils through forums such as the Essex Leader and Chief Execs forum to share our concerns so that we respond with one voice and align ourselves with our colleagues in Norfolk and Suffolk. We will also be asking to meet with National Grid to discuss our concerns directly."

Cllr Peter Schwier, Essex County Council's Climate Czar, added: "We welcome plans for renewable wind farms off the East Anglian coast, however, we are completely opposed to the transmission of the power generated via the proposed 50m high voltage pylons. These would be in the sky for generations to come and have a long-term negative impact on our wonderful Essex countryside as well as the county generally.

"This pylon infrastructure is neither wanted nor needed considering the viable option of undersea power cables. These cables could transport power to where it is needed, helping future proof energy supplies and boost energy security, without adversely impacting on residents, businesses and communities across Essex."

The Full response runs to 49 pages, and is very comprehensive!

Furthermore ECC proposed a motion to Council 12<sup>th</sup> July which outlines these objections and calls upon:

- *Both the Government and National Grid to refocus the East Anglia Green Proposals on an offshore solution and engage in discussions with Essex and its neighbouring County Councils to achieve this.*

*And National Grid to:*

- *Provide this Council with all the information asked for in our response of 16 June by 30 August 2022.*
- *Make publicly available full, open and transparent information on all options, including offshore and undergrounding, to enable evaluation and comparisons to be made by Essex residents, businesses, Councils and other stakeholders. This information to be publicly available for a period of at least 6 months before any Development Control Order (DCO) application is made.*

The motion was moved by Councillor Bentley, Leader of the Council, and seconded by Councillor Steel. The motion was passed unanimously

### **City Council**

City Council have now produced a response following their Policy Board of 14<sup>th</sup> July (which I attended and supported). This strongly objects to the proposal

Recommendation:

- Chelmsford City Council (CCC) strongly objects to the proposals, as the consultation is considered premature and all potential options have not been fully explored and assessed. Notwithstanding the objection in principle, CCC also has very serious concerns about the preferred route itself.
- City Council:
- Supports the transition towards a low or zero carbon economy in support of climate change and sustainability, including renewable energy production, where these are appropriately located and can be suitably mitigated
- Requests evidence to demonstrate that the proposed new reinforcement is needed beyond improvements, rationalisations or extensions to the existing transmission network.
- Would like to see a focus on more locally generated sustainable power generation as well as a co-ordinated approach across the country to meet our energy needs. The proposals are essentially about transmitting electricity supply across East Anglia to meet national energy demand.
- Supports efforts to find an appropriate corridor subject to all possible options being fully appraised and explained.
- Considers that the consultation is inadequate since only one final option is being proposed with very limited information provided on other options not taken forward.
- Questions the suitability of overhead transmission lines long term compared with an offshore solution taking into account the anticipated impacts of climate change.
- Would have expected to see fully considered proposals for alternatives including: 1. a strategic offshore link; 2. an onshore route containing a mix of overhead and underground cables in areas of high sensitivity

The full response runs to 31 pages

## Homes for Ukraine Scheme Update 01.06.22

### Key figures:

- In the Essex County Council area there are now 994 registered sponsors (34 new sponsors). The number of requests involves 2,250 individual guests.
- 1051 guests have now arrived, or 47% of those expected.

## Member Led Carriageway Pothole Repair Programme

Of the 36 allowed, I have received notification from 5 Parish Councils for 25 holes:

Great Waltham	3
Pleshey	3
Little Waltham	3
Writtle	4
Chignal	4
Broomfield	<u>1</u>
	18

These came in first, and so I have entered them.

Received to be entered in Oct batch:

Gt Leighs	1
Broomfield	2
Highwood	2
Writtle	1
Little Waltham	<u>1</u>
	7

I have yet to receive a response from Roxwell and Good Easter PCs (possibly because of timings of meetings). These can go into my October batch.

Your identified potholes should provide us with road names and as much as possible, precise locations. You can use maps or 'What3words' or house numbers etc to help us identify locations. These have to be carriageway potholes, and pavement defects are not included

- If possible, include at least two good photographs of each defect. It would be most helpful if one photograph is a close-up of the defect, and the second one shows the position of the defect in the road, relative to adjacent properties and identifying landmarks. Please do not put yourself or others at risk when taking photographs.
- Please be as accurate as possible – include road and village/town name but also, where possible, details of house number(s) or business(es) that the defect is adjacent to.
- Please note any other useful information that you think might help us. For instance, if the road is narrow or parking is tight; and so on.
- Please note if the defect is outside a 'higher risk' area – for instance if there is a children's nursery, school, college, or care home adjacent. Local intelligence will help us plan to do the works safely.

The work will be done in 2 tranches, starting 11th July and 10th Oct, for my division

## **RideLondon 2023**

Update from Highways Cabinet member Cllr Lee Scott:

I wanted to take this opportunity to personally make you aware that the decision to re-enter a 1 year partnership with London Marathon Events as host county for Ride London 2023 has been published this week on the forward plan (ref FP/456/07/22). This proposed decision is for ECC to be host county for the **1 day** mass participation event held on a Sunday in May 2023 and we have asked that changes are made to the route in line with feedback already received.

London Marathon events are currently undertaking a full review into the 2022 event with an operational review and full discussion with stakeholders at the end of the month. London Marathon Events have also released a public survey which is live at the moment and has been circulated to all Parish and Town councils (see link below), the closing date for this survey is 5pm 18<sup>th</sup> July so please share the below link with your communities to help ensure we have the widest possible reach.

Be assured that I have committed Ride London to complete a full review of the 2022 route and LME supported by Essex County Council officers are producing a full engagement plan to ensure all communities are engaged in this process before a 2023 route will be signed off.

Please see below the link to the public feedback questionnaire now live on the Ride London website;

<https://forms.office.com/r/XxKjiMCRVP>

### **LHP Report:**

#### **Ringtail Green:**

The existing scheme is "Request for speed reduction 60mph to 40mph and Quiet Lane status" – and because the measurement showed around 20mph as average speeds, the scheme was rejected. The Quiet Lane aspect was discussed by the LHP but I was in a minority and the other members would not put it in the funded list. In fact they wanted to remove it (along with another similar Quiet Lane request) I have now raised a signage LHP scheme request (as requested by your Clerk) which is in the process of validation. This will look at a sign to identify the area, adding warning signs such as drive slowly, maybe making a feature of the identity of the area, giving some identity to Ringtail Green.

This will be on the list to be considered at the Feb 2023 budget meeting. Like all schemes, the decision to fund it is made by all 14 members of the panel. There is around 6 years' worth of schemes awaiting funding, so priority decisions are taken on the basis of safety (informed by recorded serious accidents and fatalities, and number of people benefitted or affected). You are at liberty to lobby your Parish rep and 4 City Cllr reps.

# LHP Status following 30 June meeting

## Funded Schemes

Scheme	Description	Parish	Scheme Category	Scheme stage	Cost Code	Budget	Comments	Est. Compl. date
Main Road (at northern Broomfield Parish boundary), Broomfield - Gateway treatment.	Village Gateway	Broomfield	Traffic Management	Implementation	LCHE12002	£5,500.00	Village gateway	Q3
Breads Road/Woodhal Hill, Chigna Smealy - Gateway	Village gateway improvements	Chigna	Traffic Management	Design	LCHE12007	4000	Design/Land Year 1 and implementation Year 2 at £65,500	Q3
92005 Northern approach to Ford End - 40mph Buffer	40mph buffer	Great Waltham	Traffic Management	Total scheme	LCHE120051	10500	Implementation 40mph buffer, will require a TRO	Q3
92005 Ford End - Kerbing improvements	Height of kerbs through Village	Great Waltham	Traffic Management	Total scheme	LCHE12009	48000	Raised kerbs at six bus stops through village as first stage	Q3
Barrack Lane /w Cherry Garden Road, Great Waltham - Footway improvements	Footway improvements	Great Waltham	Traffic Management	Total scheme	LCHE12002	6500	Design team advise footway may need regrading and could need land acquisition. Due to change in scheme scope suggestion is now Design Only at first stage	Q3
Littley Park Cottages, Littley Park Lane, Harford End - TMI	SLOW road markings for existing bend with junctions	Great Waltham	Traffic Management	Total scheme	LCHE120036	10800	Signage improvements and vegetation clearance, possible SLOW road marking	Q4
Highwood Road, Loves Green - Remedial works	Remedial measures to existing build-outs near school	Highwood	Traffic Management	Total scheme	LCHE120042	4800	Remedial works to existing build-outs and bus stop	Q3
81008 Blarford Hill nr JW Chelmer Avenue, Little Waltham - Pedestrian crossing improvements	Consideration of pedestrian crossing or refuge island	Little Waltham	Traffic Management	Design	LCHE120044	7500	Outline design of pedestrian refuge island (implementation to be funded through 5,105 monies) to look at existing starts/impact on existing bus stop. Also to consider possible right turn filter lane/hatching and cost estimate	Q3
The Street and Back Lane, Little Waltham - Traffic management improvements	Request for 40mph buffer and Village Gateways	Little Waltham	Traffic Management	Total scheme	LCHE12005	11500	Village Gateway improvements	Q4
Little Waltham - Traffic review	Traffic monitor - To assess levels of cut-through driving	Little Waltham	Traffic Management	Feasibility	LCHE120034	£18,000.00	Added at June 2022 Panel meeting. LVFC have offered a £5,000 contribution towards this study	
The Green nr /w Ongar Road, Writtle - Verge improvements	Measures to stop verge damage	Writtle	Traffic Management	Total scheme	LCHE120044	£6,500.00	Extend bus cage	Q3
Whitehead Close /w Lodge Road, Writtle - Junction improvements	Possible conflict between pedestrian and vehicles	Writtle	Traffic Management	Total scheme	LCHE120021	5500	Stick on tactile paving on footway to warn pedestrians of a hazard, due to the fact that the footway joins a shared route where there is vehicular access	Q3
Sulliners Way, Ongar Road & Lordship Road, Writtle - 7.5T weight limit signing	Review of existing 7.5T environmental weight limit signing	Writtle	Traffic Management	Design	LCHE200010	9000	Year 1 - Review/Design of Writtle 7.5T weight limit signage, including TRO. Year 2 - Implementation improvements, estimated cost £16,000	Q4
Lordship Road nr JW Cow Watering Lane - Verge marker posts	Verge marker posts to show edge of verge, especially when road flooded	Writtle	Traffic Management	Total scheme	LCHE200046	8000	Verge marker posts	Q4

## Awaiting Funding schemes

Scheme	Description	Parish	Scheme Cat	Scheme stage	Cost Code	Budget	Comments
The Barn, Mill Lane Broomfield - Kerbing	Flooding improvement measures	Broomfield	Traffic Management	Total scheme	LCHE22023	N/A	Validation - As possible third party scheme feasible to improve drainage by removing wall/footings and part of kerb line. Requestor working with Essex Highways Solutions to fund/implement a scheme
School Lane, Broomfield - SCP	New School Crossing Patrol Site	Broomfield	School Crossing Patrols	Validation	LCHE22600	TBC	In validation to assess existing SCP infrastructure
Woodhall Hill, Chignal Smealy - 30mph	Reduction from 40mph to 30mph	Chignal	Traffic Management	Validation	LCHE22017	TBC	2017 speed data - 40mph posted speed - Southeast bound - 28.8mph & Northwest bound 34.2mph, Good compliance to 40mph. Suggestion is for Village Gateways under LCHE22007 to be progressed and then repeat automatic traffic count.
Great Leighs Footpath 41 (Part of The Essex Way) Surfacing/Drainage	Surfacing and Drainage improvements	Great Leighs	Public Rights of Way	Total scheme	LCHE19806	£40,000.00	Parish Council were previously approached to consider part funding scheme but they advised that they were unable to contribute. Panel decision December 2021 that scheme should not be removed from the list
B1008 Ford End - Footway improvements	Width of footway through Village	Great Waltham	Traffic Management	Validation	LCHE182030	TBC	Highway Range is to routinely side existing footways to fully open up available footway width
Ford End - Average speed cameras	Average speed cameras	Great Waltham	Traffic Management	Implementation	LCHE192028	£0460	Scheme was design only in 2020/21, new revised costing £120,920. Suggestion previously was Match Funding from Parish Council and LHP, which would now require £90,460 from each source
Ringhill Green, Great Waltham - Gateway signs	Signage to identify the hamlet	Great Waltham	Traffic Management	Validation	LCHE222014	TBC	Awaiting highway boundary information
Highwood Road Edney Common to Loves Green, including St Pauls Church - Footway	Pedestrian footway - 1.2m walkable verge, crossing point at Highwood Road and removal of informal layby at St Pauls Church	Highwood	Traffic Management	Implementation	LCHE142040	£272,300.00	From design - Part 1: Highwood to St Pauls Church - £78,000 and Part 2 - St Pauls Church to Edney Common - £194,300
Highwood Road, Edney Common to Loves Green 30mph speed limit	50mph speed limit	Highwood	Traffic Management	Total scheme	LCHE152134	£14,500.00	Validation - Speed data - 60mph speed limit 150m SW of A414 - Northeast bound - 41.5mph & Southwest bound - 37.5mph, 930m SW of A414 - South bound - 46.4mph & 49.9mph, 560m North east of Nathans Lane - Northeast bound - 46.5mph & Southwest bound - 46.6mph. Based on speed data - 30mph limit near A414 not feasible as recorded speeds are too high, also environment of road would not assist a 30mph limit as properties not apparent to drivers. Whilst it could though be possible to consider a 50mph limit, this may in turn increase speed of traffic
Little Waltham Footpath 28 - Surfacing/Drainage	Surfacing and Drainage improvements - 365m length and average 2m width	Little Waltham	Public Rights of Way	Total scheme	LCHE19807	£30,000.00	Parish Council were previously approached to consider part funding scheme but they advised that they were unable to contribute. Panel decision December 2021 that scheme should not be removed from the list
B1008/j/w The Street, Little Waltham - Signing/Lining improvements	Traffic management improvements	Little Waltham	Traffic Management	Validation	LCHE192017	TBC	In validation
Little Waltham C of E Primary School, The Street, Little Waltham - School 20mph with wags	School advisory 20mph with wags	Little Waltham	Traffic Management	Validation	LCHE222015	TBC	In validation
Boyton Cross Lane, Rowell - Horse & Rider signs	Horse & Rider signage	Rowell	Traffic Management	Validation	LCHE222038	TBC	In validation
Writtle College Main Access, Lordship Road, Writtle - Junction and carriageway improvements	Investigation into junction/carriageway improvements	Writtle	Traffic Management	Total scheme	LCHE152099	£5500	Remedial works at junction - Vegetation clearance, road markings, bus stop improvements and drainage works. Need to await nearby development and possible S.106 monies
Doctors Surgery, Lordship Road, Writtle - Bus stops	Pair of bus stops, raised kerbs flags/poles	Writtle	Passenger Transport	Implementation	LCHE182070	£23,500.00	Feasibility study recommends installation of a pair of bus stops and infrastructure
OJ/s Writtle Infant School, Lodge Road, Writtle - Footway	New section of footway needed to link to new school gate	Writtle	Walking	Validation	LCHE22003	TBC	In validation
Oxney Mead/j/w Chequers Road, Writtle - Dropped kerbs	Dropped kerbs/tactile paving	Writtle	Walking	Validation	LCHE223007	TBC	In validation