
From:
Sent: 24 April 2014 09:45
Subject: FW: East Anglia One Power Cable Construction along the River Deben in Suffolk

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From: Thomas O'Brien
Sent: 23 April 2014 10:32
To: Correspondence (DECC)
Subject: East Anglia One Power Cable Construction along the River Deben in Suffolk

To the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change The Rt. Hon. Ed Davey MP,

I would like to pass to you a copy of my letter that I posted to my MP Dr Theresa Coffey (see below). The letter concerns the devastating affect on the landscape by laying the East Anglia One power cable from Bawdsey to Sproughton, and the need to consider a Countryside Legacy Project to compensate for the huge construction work.

I notice that the organised protests towards Sizewell C is growing, but the huge underground power construction project linked to the East Anglia windfarms seems to have fallen under the radar. Many local people I speak to are unaware of the scale of the project (a trench wider than the width of a modern motorway, and a large terminal at Bawdsey).

You are currently considering the report from the National Infrastructure Planning Inspectorate and soon will be making recommendations. I hope you will find time to read the details in my letter which suggest the issue of compensation for the upheaval and misery local people will endure during the construction work.

Yours Sincerely

Thomas O'Brien

12th March 2014

Rt. Hon. Theresa Coffey MP,

I wish to write to you concerning the proposal by East Anglia One Ltd to build a power cable adjacent to the river Deben. This cable will provide a high energy electrical link between an offshore windfarm to the National Grid at Sproughton. My main concern with this project is the environmental impact caused by the construction works. The laying of the cable will mean the excavation of a huge trench more than the width of a modern motorway through a landscape of outstanding natural beauty. This trench will be accompanied by the building of roads alongside the trench so as to carry construction traffic. Large depots will be constructed for the storage of construction materials and machinery. The scar will be visible for many years with large mature trees removed to make way for the cable. Inevitably it will be a blight on the lives of people who live along the Deben and restrict the enjoyment of people like myself who enjoy walking the local footpaths. I don't want to be negative and just say 'No' to the project. But at the same time the people who enjoy the outdoors will suffer as a result of the construction work, and so should be compensated by landscape improvements such as nature reserves or improved footpath access.

I attended many of the National Infrastructure Planning meetings in Ipswich and argued the case for local people to be 'like for like'

compensated by means of a Countryside Legacy Fund. There are plans to give compensation payments to individual Parish Councils, but these payments will inevitably be passed on to construct BMX tracks, village halls and football pitches etc. This is OK for some, but will not compensate individuals like myself who enjoy walking in the outdoors amongst the beautiful local landscape. Let's also remember this is a tourist area. Many local tourism related businesses in places like Waldringfield will be affected by the construction work. This area of England doesn't have large National Parks such as the Peak District or Dartmoor nearby - these patches of countryside are all we have.

The Countryside Legacy Project I proposed at the planning hearings is to repair the sea walls along the Western side of the River Deben so as to form a continuous footpath to link Woodbridge with Felixstowe Ferry.

This path could be called the 'Deben Way'. This proposal has also been put forward by members of Martlesham Parish Council and the Deben Estuary Partnership. The route along the sea wall has been breached in places for some time. However, the path along it has already been designated a footpath so no formal procedures need to be followed to reinstate the path. (Repairing the sea wall between Martlesham Creek and Waldringfield is especially seen as important because tourists often walk North from Wadringfield only to find the path is broken, then divert their walk through a farm, find they cannot continue so have to return past the farm - all to the annoyance of the farmer). Another proposal I made was that land could be put aside for the formation of a permanent nature reserve. Similar reserves were created adjacent to Felixstowe Docks and Sizewell Power Station. A number of us approached East Anglia One Ltd with these suggestions for landscape projects, but apart from the replanting of trees (which I presume they have to do) there has been no agreement.

The report from the National Infrastructure Planning Inspectorate regarding the East Anglia One windfarm project will shortly be passed to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for his decision. I urge you to use your influence with the Secretary of State to include the suggestions I have made as conditions for the windfarm cable project to go ahead.

Let's not forget, that that as well as the Windfarm power cable, there are large works planned for Sizewell C Power Station. My son lives in and so enjoy walking around there too. The Sizewell construction work will mean large areas put aside for construction activities, workers homes, new railways, lorry depot's etc. So similar issues will arise there too. And as I said earlier, we have no National parks nearby. These landscapes are all we have.

So I am asking you to understand that these large infrastructure projects will mean quite significant disruption to local people in your constituency. Its not just a case of 'It will look nice when its finished', but how people who use the countryside for recreation will bear the brunt of the construction work. Their needs must be considered. Once again I urge you to speak to the Secretary if State and request that a Countryside Legacy Project be included as part of the power cable project.

Yours sincerely

Thomas O'Brien

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