

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [East Anglia ONE North; East Anglia Two](#)  
**Subject:** Personal Letter to Dr Therese Coffey  
**Date:** 06 April 2021 15:02:40  
**Attachments:** [Letter to Dr Coffey 6.4.2021.docx](#)

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Dera Mr Smith and colleagues

I attach this personal letter to Dr Coffey as a matter of courtesy so that you are aware.

I have copied and circulated widely ventilating my considerable concerns and frustrations at all that is going on in this area.

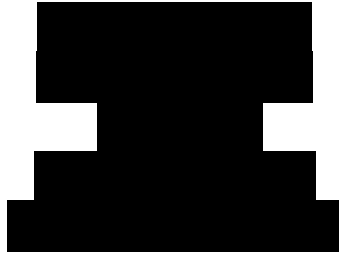
You have heard and read most of them already!

However, I did not wish you to hear about it by the back door and cause any embarrassment to you.

It is rather similar in tone to my letter to you in June last year - I am no wiser after nine months and your Examination!

Yours sincerely

Simon Ive  
Ref: 20023671 / 20023672



6 April 2021

The Rt Hon Dr Therese Coffey MP  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

By e-mail:  
therese.coffey.mp@parliament.uk

Dear Dr Coffey

## **SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

In anticipation of the Suffolk County Council Elections on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021, I am writing to ascertain what is the Conservative Party **‘Vision for Suffolk’ and the reasons to vote?**

This is against the background of coming out gradually from lockdown and the very positive economic opportunities emerging for the Suffolk economy but countered by the creep of industrialisation and urbanisation in substantial part driven by the energy projects and consequences for the social fabric.

Central to that is how we strive for a balanced economy taking advantage of these opportunities but finding the means to preserve those areas which offer the opportunity to escape from the pressures of work and urban living. The unique combination of the sea and rural landscapes and the diverse cultural facilities in this area known as the Suffolk Heritage Coast provide a civilising and comforting haven at a time of some social tensions. In addition, they provide considerable economic and employment benefits.

This letter is copied to a wide political audience since in seeking the above we have to reconcile and coordinate the demands of central government planning and our own local councils and then those who live and visit here.

None more so than here where some seek to make the Heritage Coast the Energy Coast. The Sizewell C project takes out a huge area of the coast through not just the scale of the facility but the space for the huge infrastructure demands over a seven-to-twelve-year period. Its own DCO Application Examination has now commenced.

On top of that you will be well aware of the demands of the offshore wind projects and National Grid interconnectors for onshore connection points which threatens to create a sprawl of additional industrial locations in this same area.

**So, the questions are** – ‘who is thinking through all the strategic and planning implications to achieve the necessary balances and preparing for the future implementation’? Who in turn will be responsible and accountable for co-ordination of management and control?

You will be aware of the many economic developments at both the southern and northern ends of your Suffolk Coastal constituency. There are also provisions for at least 5,300 new homes in the local plans and the influx of some 7,500 staff and workers engaged on Sizewell C. How are all these to be accommodated? How are these individual and communal human and social needs to be met? What are the implications for the emergency, health and social care services?

It is beyond belief that these major energy projects are accorded just eight lines hidden away at the bottom of a page of the March edition of the East Suffolk magazine. Worse, it states ‘this will not be our decision’ but that of the Secretary of State. That may be factually correct under current planning legislation, but it is still an abdication of responsibility. The role of a local authority should be to help shape and influence policy and legislation to protect its population, (to effectively represent its views) and environment. Not least, our local authorities will be the bodies responsible for managing and implementing the projects and their implications locally.

The above sets out the broad background to my question – ‘what is the vision’?

Below, I set out various observations and frustrations arising from the National Planning Inspectorate Examination relating to the EA1N North and EA2 Offshore Windfarm proposals, the research for which has given rise to my concerns.

The Examining Authority have had a most challenging task in extremely difficult times and I have no criticism of their endeavours to hear all sides. Indeed, one would like to feel that the decision to request an extension of the Examination reflects the complexities of what is before them and the depth and breadth of the opposition from local communities and individuals. But for us it remains a gruesome and gruelling experience which we have to fund out of our own pockets.

The existing planning legislation for these NSIPs is outdated as is recognised by the BEIS Review. It takes insufficient concern for evolving policies relating to the environment and human wellbeing. There is no apparent co-ordination within the energy industry. Cumulative impacts are insufficiently addressed. It presumes in favour of the Applicant, so each project becomes a ‘tick-box’ exercise, the same consultants recycling their complex DCOs which fail to appreciate the characteristics of the different locations for their connection points. They have become lazy and arrogant.

Because of that presumption in favour of the Applicant and that the decision is taken by the Secretary of State, there is a tendency for the Local Authorities to be complacent and

complicit in the process thus failing to communicate effectively with local town and parish councils and not seeking or acknowledging their constituents' views.

**'He who pays the piper, calls the tune'** – That certainly seems to be the case with East Suffolk Council whose costs are covered by the Applicant, Scottish Power Renewables. How else can you explain that Council's decision to switch from opposition to the proposals to neutral at its January 2021 meeting when so many areas of disagreement remained and indeed still do at the time of writing, Sadly, they are now diluting their requirements to the point they seem to be moving to support. Where do they stand when the Examining Authority feel that there remain many outstanding issues? How can we have faith in their ability to manage the outcomes if the projects are approved?

In similar context is the **Saxmundham Neighbourhood plan** – sponsored by commercial developers (never a healthy sign) it presages a 40% increase in the town population by creating an extra sprawl without addressing the needs to improve the environment and facilities of the town centre. And already it has sneaked in a lorry park, service station and motel on the rural landscape into its latest plans which were not included in the original published Local Plan.

The involvement of **Suffolk County Council** seems circumscribed. The impact of the projects on highways threatens their resilience and ability to cope given the nature of the rural network. There is much concern relating to safety and the cumulative traffic impacts of the energy projects, local traffic, and considerable visitor traffic. Flooding is a major concern to Friston and the County Council have been very diligent in their work and opposition to the Applicant's proposals.

However, health and social care are the major burdens on the County Council budgets and we wonder how these and the social fabric might be exacerbated by the consequences of urbanisation, industrialisation and the influx of new residents and Sizewell C work force?

In sum there is a huge confluence of developments in the short and medium terms and the concern is for the capacity to implement and manage these and to protect the precious environment for future generations.

Yours sincerely

Simon Ive



**Circulation:**

Rt Hon Dr Therese Coffey MP

Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP

Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP

Suffolk County Council:

| [Redacted]

East Suffolk Council:

| [Redacted]

Aldeburgh Town Council:

| [Redacted]

Friston Parish Council:

| [Redacted]

SASES:

| [Redacted]

The Planning Inspectorate for information as a matter of courtesy.