

OPEN FLOOR HEARING – 17th JANUARY 2023

Sandra Betts: Norfolk Parishes Movement

Comment :

As a member of the Norfolk Parish Movement for an Offshore Transmission Network, a Parish Councillor for Barford and Wrampingham and a resident of this county I cannot stress enough that whilst we are all fully supportive of offshore windfarms, we do not see any reason why the word green is attached to this type of development. Bringing the electricity onshore and crossing Norfolk requires it to be re-exported out of the county and only leads to further ruin of our green and pleasant land by damaging the environment and causing disruption to people's lives.

To minimise the impact of the current DCO application, we strongly support the proposal that the Planning Inspectorate investigates the alternative of Equinor's projects connecting to the grid through the Wash to Walpole sub-station or the idle Sutton Bridge power station.

Not only would this cause less impact to the community and the environment, but it would also reduce the cumulative impacts caused by Orsted's Hornsea 3, Vattenfall's Boreas and Vanguard and Norfolk County Council's major road developments particularly the A47 projects and the Western by-pass. It feels that whichever way we turn in Norfolk we will soon be met with diversion signs for years to come. This is disruptive for communities and businesses including tourism. Nobody will want to visit Norfolk if constantly stuck in traffic jams.

National Grid must be asked to justify its selection of Norwich Main as the grid connection point. As a result of its actions, Equinor now proposes to disrupt the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds, cross the AONB coast and drive through to the heart of the county instead of the sensible solution of connecting at Walpole.

I know from my Parishioners the concerns this has raised and whilst we would remain very angry if the connection point is not changed, we would be absolutely furious if Equinor was allowed to carry out the SEP and DEP projects sequentially. Should the Planning Inspectorate see fit to recommend the SEP and DEP projects, then perhaps at least they can recommend they are carried out as one concurrent onshore project.

I trust the Planning Inspectorate will give full consideration to the points raised.

Information concerning the Norfolk Parishes Movement for an OTN:

Madam Chair. in response to your request for further information concerning our organisation, I attach a complete list of the **96** Norfolk Parish Councils which have joined together to lobby for a fully integrated Offshore Transmission Network. So far