

## **Little Waltham Parish Council response to Norwich to Tilbury Consultation by the National Grid.**

Little Waltham Parish Council (the Council) wishes to make the following comments and representations in relation to this consultation.

The Council supports the production of green energy and in particular the North Sea Wind Farms which are able to generate clean energy and contribute to energy security for this Country and appreciates that this energy needs to be delivered into the National Grid. However, the Council opposes the proposals set out in this consultation for new overland transmission lines for the majority of the route, and in particular through the Parish of Little Waltham, carried by large, visually intrusive latticed metal pylons.

The Particular grave concern of the Council is the impact of these traditional pylons upon the environment of this Parish and contends that the pylons would have an adverse landscape and visual impact on the sensitive and historic rural landscape and biodiversity of the Little Waltham Parish as well as an adverse impact upon the wellbeing of residents.

The Council's preferred option would be for offshore cabling as this would avoid blighting yet more countryside with hundreds of extra pylons and reduce environmental damage and disruption.

However, if the offshore option proves to be unfeasible and pylons are to be constructed then the Council contends that the pylons could be better sited to lessen the impact upon residents by moving them just a short distance.

In particular, the Council wishes to address the positioning of the pylons at the pinch point as it passes through the Parish following the B1008 and in extremely close proximity to the Little Waltham village centre.

There are 3 pylons in particular proximity to the village in that location which are proposed to run from Chatham Hall Lane to Chelmsford Road. In relation to the middle of the three pylons, the Council considers that it could be moved either behind the wooded copse or within the copse. Even if it were to be moved directly adjacent to the copse it would be beneficial as any of those positions would place the pylons a further 400 meters back and on lower ground thus reducing the visual impact. It would also avoid the pylon being in the middle of a cultivated field thus blighting agricultural land. The pylon closest to Chelmsford Road could also be moved back again reducing the visual impact.

The village centre is a prime example of a historic north Essex village and contains a large number of grade II listed properties. Indeed, the historic and architectural value of the village centre has been recognised by being designated a Conservation Area. The Council considers therefore that by making a small change to the position of two of the pylons could lessen the detrimental impact on the historic village centre.