

Date: 1st September 2023
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Pylon plan not supported by SCC

Suffolk County Council is not supporting the latest proposals by the National Grid to install 114 miles of electricity pylons across the county as part of the “Norwich to Tilbury” project. A number of objections have been raised about the 33 mile stretch of the new works which would run through Suffolk, which includes installing a stretch of cabling under the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The council is pressing for an offshore solution to be fully researched and considered.

Onshore facility proposal for Suffolk Coast

Suffolk County Council was disappointed to learn that the LionLink interconnector project from National Grid Ventures has identified an alternative landfall at Walberswick, with cable routing making its way to the north of Southwold.

The Lionlink project aims to connect multiple offshore wind farms in the North Sea, instead of individual wind farms connecting one by one to the shore. The project is a joint venture between the UK and the Netherlands, supplying energy to both countries.

The Council will study the details of the new proposals, and will prepare its response to the National Grid’s second public consultation, which opens on 8 September.

2023 Tour of Britain Cycle Race

The world’s best cyclists will be taking to the roads of Suffolk on 7 September, including Tour de France champions. This fifth stage of the national race will start in Felixstowe at 10.45am and go through Kesgrave, Ipswich, Hadleigh, Needham Market, Stowmarket, Framlingham, Leiston and Woodbridge before finishing back in Felixstowe at around 3.30pm. For details of the route and timings, please see the plans for Stage Five on the Tour of Britain website:
<https://www.tourofbritain.co.uk/stages/stage-five/>

New Fire and Rescue Service Training Centre

The Suffolk Fire and Rescue Training Centre at Wattisham has had a £1.3m upgrade and was formally opened on 24 August. This includes a new tactical firefighting facility to simulate incidents firefighters may be faced with and help them prepare for the dangerous work they undertake in the community.

Social Worker of the Year Awards 2023

Suffolk County Council’s social workers and social care teams have been shortlisted for six awards at the annual Social Worker of the Year Awards. This is the only major national awards event for social work in England, attracting hundreds of entries every year and reaching millions of people with positive stories of outstanding social work. We are really proud of our social workers, who work so hard to help people in often challenging circumstances. The winners will be announced at the awards ceremony in November this year.

Support for Ukrainian refugees moving to private rented accommodation

In May, Suffolk County Council announced a one-off £2,000 support grant for Ukrainian refugees moving on from their host into their own accommodation. The Independent Living Payment is available to any Ukrainian refugees moving into private rented accommodation after 1 April 2023. Guests must have been living in Suffolk for a minimum of two months and be registered on the Suffolk Homes for Ukraine scheme to be eligible for the payment. This funding can be used for any associated housing costs, including furniture, moving costs or travel to work. The support can be used towards accommodation which is furnished or unfurnished, and accommodation can be in Suffolk or out of county.

Ukrainian guests can apply for the Independent Living Payment and completing the application form on the Suffolk County Council website:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/communities/community-engagement/support-for-refugees/support-for-ukraine/ukraine-information-for-guests>

CQC pilot inspection of Adult Social Care (ACS)

I am representing the opposition in this inspection and will be happy to relay any appropriate feedback about ASC/ACS to the CQC so please let me know where they have done well and where there are areas that need to be improved before 15th September.

Reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) in schools

From SCC today: *You are likely to have seen reported in the media the news that 156 schools across the country are affected by the use of reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) during construction.*

RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete which was used in schools, colleges and other building construction from the 1950s until the mid-1990s.

The Department for Education (DfE) is leading on this directly with those schools affected. Suffolk County Council has had no official confirmation from the DfE, however at this stage we believe that four schools may be affected in the county. All of these are academies. This could however change as we learn more from the DfE. Suffolk County Council's education and infrastructure team are offering support to minimise disruption to education.

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Cost of Living help and advice:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/family.page?familychannel=6>

Benefits advice and support:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/adult.page?adultchannel=0>

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