

Many of us here today have already set out our concerns regarding the Sea Link plans for this part of Suffolk. I know that the parish council has made representations and I fully support these.

Although - apparently - reluctantly approving the SPR project the Planning Inspectorate (PI) stated then that 'The local harm... is substantial and should not be underestimated...' We are now faced with yet more infrastructure projects - but the original objections have not gone away.

Economically, the costs of these projects are huge. The costs will rise and there is absolutely no guarantee that they will lead to reduced energy bills.

Already the damage to our local environment is evident. Agricultural land is being taken out of commission - this seems shortsighted and a mad idea when, strategically, this country should be maximising its ability to produce food.

Our local roads are being damaged by heavy goods vehicles - even although project-related traffic is supposed to adhere to certain routes, the increased volume of traffic is already encouraging local traffic to find alternative routes and our local network of small roads is becoming a rat run for traffic impatient with the holdups caused by the general increase in heavy vehicles. The Environment Agency recognises this as a 'seriously water stressed area' and it is imperative that local fire fighting services are able to respond swiftly to emergencies. The fire at a substation serving London Heathrow in March 2025 demonstrates how dangerous this can be. We do not have the local fire-fighting capacity to deal with this threat.

Many of our footpaths - so important for recreation, exercise and restoring mental well-being - are being diverted or done away with altogether. It is already heart-breaking to see the quantities of trees that have been felled - and that destruction is far from over.

It has been hinted that the proposed time span for construction hours will be increased, ignoring what was agreed following the SPR examination. There will be little quiet time for those in close proximity to the construction sites. This is evident already in Friston - and this is just the beginning.

The PI observed, following the SPR Examination, that 'the cumulative delivery of the proposed development with other East Anglia development on the transmission connection site near Friston are so substantially adverse that utmost care will be required in the consideration of any amendments or additions to those elements of the Proposed Development in this location.'

We hear a lot in the press about our duty and responsibility to conserve mental health but it seems that little heed is being given it where these projects are concerned. The Sealink scheme needs a complete rethink, and combined with what else is proposed for the region a full cumulative impact assessment needs to be carried out rather than the piecemeal half-hearted PR exercises that the companies offer at present.