

## **Open Floor Hearings for Sealink. Transcript Tom Daly. 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026.**

East Suffolk Council is the local planning authority and we have statutory dealings with all the NSIPs at all levels. As Cabinet Member for Energy and Climate Change with East Suffolk Council, I would like to convey to the examiner some serious concerns we have in our dealings with the applicant to date.

They have an approach that is in contrast to all the other NSIPs we are dealing with; an attitude that SeaLink is the only project in the frame, it trumps all others and it will definitely be consented whatever the lack of constructive engagement with the planning authority or meaningful coordination with other projects using the same sites.

For example, working hours. This is a prime example. During the process of these huge developments, there must be periods of respite for the local community. ScottishPower Renewables respect this in that they don't work Saturday afternoon, Sundays or bank holidays. NGET must be required to do the same. If ScottishPower can show that respect for the community, NGET must do the same or it becomes meaningless.

Noise - another example. Operational, construction, machinery noise at the landfall site, at Friston, at the Saxmundham converter site, can be minimised and mitigated. NGET's current attitude is not conducive to this

A crucial example is coordination. The coordination of all projects is so crucial if we're going to minimise impacts on communities and the environment. Other projects are showing willing. NGET – no. For example, the HVAC cables to be laid from Friston to the converter site at Saxmundham - NGET refuses to consider laying the ducting for LionLink so that there's just one set of impacts. This is the opposite of coordination. Similarly with master planning the converter site itself.

Another prime example is the discharge of consents. This is the crucial detail of how major works can be done most effectively. NGET are demanding 35 days with deemed consent. That is, they automatically go ahead. SPR is 56 days with a very definite we'll get it right attitude. These things have to be done properly. Under these rules, NGET could dump many discharges at once, making the process of safeguarding our communities and environments unworkable. And this is yet another example of ignoring other projects going on, and the cumulative pressures communities and ESDC officers are under. The intention of working with us to make the best of this development, seems missing with NGET. The appreciation of the other projects and the cumulative effects that have been described here today on our communities seems lacking. We must have a constructive, productive working relationship with NGET, if this project is consented, for it to be delivered in the best interests of all involved, particularly our communities most impacted by so much at this time. This is just one project amongst many. This change of attitude must start now. I appeal to the examiners to insist that there is constructive engagement, particularly on these areas of: working hours, noise, coordination, and discharge of requirements; but also across the board as indicated on that powerful document, the East Suffolk Council PADSS. The applicant must accept it is part of a much bigger picture. It must take a responsible approach and that needs to start now. Thank you.