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Great Horkesley Parish Council
Great Horkesley Village Hall
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Great Horkesley
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clerk@greathorkesley-pc.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re Norwich to Tilbury; Deficiencies in Consultations prior to Development Consent Order

Great Horkesley Parish Council has serious concerns as to significant deficiencies in the consultations carried out by National Grid. The route appears to have been pre-selected and a foregone conclusion and breaches the Gunning Principles.

Bearing in mind both the Gunning Principles and requirements under the Planning Act 2008 (both addressing adequacy of consultation), we consider that the consultations were not carried out in any meaningful way; no real alternatives were presented to be consulted on (the route had overall been determined by National Grid); there was a lack of proper information (for example costings) and consultation responses were not adequately (or 'consciously') considered. Indeed, as we raised in response to the 2024 Statutory Consultation, matters raised in previous consultations (in the 'feedback report') were often responded to by National Grid in the future tense eg "will propose mitigations" – but how could we respond to a future intention?

We would invite the Planning Inspectorate to seriously consider whether it is able to accept the application bearing this in mind and the importance of proper and fair public participation in the planning process.

Thank you.


Parish Clerk
On behalf of Great Horkesley Parish Council