



W E S T B E R G H O L T P A R I S H C O U N C I L



Ref: #00005523

National Grid's (NG) proposed Norwich to Tilbury electricity link (the scheme)

In the recent past, West Bergholt Parish Council (WBPC) has lodged its general objections to the scheme in detail. These objections included commentary on mitigation and compensation for West Bergholt and its environs in the unfortunate circumstances that planning permission for the scheme was to be granted.

WBPC has now been advised of the intention by NG to launch a Community Fund in the sum of £30 million with the aim of:

1. Opening doors to new skills, training and opportunities for the future.
2. Revitalising community and green spaces where people can connect and thrive.
3. Strengthening health and well-being support for local people.
4. Or anything else you think your community needs.

WBPC considers these four headings to be little more than flippant offers made in order to compensate West Bergholt and its citizens for the devastation that will be caused, should the scheme be implemented as currently proposed. This devastation will impinge on West Bergholt and its population for generations to come - that is to say, in perpetuity. Thus, how it can be that that the heading 1-4 detailed above can possibly compensate all the forthcoming generations is a mystery, in fact it would appear that NG has given no serious thought to the long-term consequences of their proposals whatsoever.

This being the case, it will be recalled that WBPC's objections to the scheme were in part based on the fact that the design of the scheme was ill conceived from the outset and that the following factors should have been considered prior to finalising the scheme:

1. The existing grid should have been upgraded first, using lightweight conductors that carry 3x more power.
2. Coordinate offshore developments to reduce infrastructure and therefore reduce costs and harms.
3. The use of HVDC undergrounding where cables have to be on land for long distances.

4. The use of cable ploughing, not 'cut and cover', for quicker, cheaper and less damaging underground installation.

To date, WBPC has seen no practical evidence-based contribution from NG that they have given and realistic reasons for not implementing these considerations, and this alone would indicate that the £30 million offered by way of mitigation for despoilation of vast areas of the natural environment of the scheme as planned.

Turning now to the question of mitigation as detailed in the formal objection to the scheme as already described, it will be recalled that WBPC sought for a lump sum of £150,000 to be paid to every household within the parish boundary. Since that objection was first lodged, the planning authorities have seen fit to grant further permissions which will, when extrapolated forward, cause the number of households in West Bergholt to increase to some 2,000 in the foreseeable future, from which it follows that your proposal to establish a community fund of £30 million will in no way, be sufficient to compensate the population of West Bergholt, let alone all the other communities affected by the scheme.

In light of all the foregoing, WBPC objects to the establishment of a community fund in the format as proposed due to the inadequacy of the funding to be provided and the scope of the purpose of the funding. The National Grid Development Consent Order (DCO) cannot be approved as not only has everything that the Pylons East Anglia group been saying in the wider context, true, but WBPC knows that its concerns and issues have not been addressed and is still not happy with the project. WBPC would therefore object to approval of the project once again.

WBPC maintains its claim for £150,000 per household by way of compensation for the harms and damages which will be incurred due to the implementation of the scheme. Nevertheless, if we apply for the Community Fund, it does not signify any approval of the project.

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West Bergholt Parish Council

29 July 2026