

Palgrave Parish Council, October 2023

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Solar Energy Developments - Energy developers bringing forward large-scale energy projects without speaking to councils or communities were criticised by Councillor Richard Rout, Deputy Leader of Suffolk County Council following the latest publication of National Grid's Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) Register. National Grid connections have been offered at Bramford and Yaxley. These are large scale solar panel and battery storage proposals similar to the 2,500-acre SUNNICA scheme in West Suffolk; details are not yet available. The government has a target to increase solar capacity 70GW by 2035 as part of its net zero targets, and is also looking at increased use of commercial roof space. Solar capacity in the UK as of February 2023 was 14.43G:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/untapped-potential-of-commercial-buildings-could-revolutionise-uk-solar-power>

New Highways Service - Suffolk Highways' new partnership commenced on 1st October as Milestone Infrastructure and Suffolk County Council join forces to deliver highways services. The new contract will deliver highway projects and improvements across Suffolk for up to 20 years, including maintaining roads, pavements and rights of way, improving drainage, hedge trimming, construction of new schemes, snow-clearing and gritting. Milestone is part of M Group Services.

Funding for Ely and Haughley Rail Junctions – Following the cancellation of Phase 2 of HS2, the Government has announced funding for upgrades to these junctions as well as other rail improvements. The outdated infrastructure currently acts as a bottle neck for all rail traffic, upgrades have been long sought and the investment will enable greater rail freight to be carried from Felixstowe and improved passenger services between Ipswich and Peterborough.

Pylons Meeting in Wortham/ Royden – A public protest meeting was held on Saturday 30th September attended by MPs (Jo Churchill, Dan Poulter and Richard Bacon), Rosie Pearson, founder of the Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons group, Council leaders and others. A strong message was sent that the project needs to be reviewed, options and costs disclosed, and National Grid made accountable to the public. It was noted that exploratory drilling has already been initiated for potential pylon locations.

Stanton - Jaynic-Co-Part DC/23/1154/OUT – I have heard from Gary Hancox, West Suffolk Council following my enquiry about risk associated with EVs and proximity to the Avanti gas storage site. Mr. Hancox has replied to effect that he has received an automated response from HSE but has followed up directly requesting a detailed and customised response in respect of the perceived fire risk and the proximity of the Avanti gas facility, this is still awaited. Mr Hancox also contacted SCC Fire Service in August and requested further comment. (I have asked for this to be followed up.)

Stanton - Equation Warehouse Development DC/23/1154/OUT – Similarly to the above, I have discussed access arrangements with SCC Highways and currently the application proposes to use a spur leading to the roundabout that Jaynic may construct assuming this goes ahead. If it does not, then the fall back is Summer Road. According to the application form, 2,903 employees are anticipated. Suffolk Highways is developing its response to the application.

Council Seeks Foster Carers - If you are interested in becoming a foster carer please get in touch and find out about training and support, carers are needed for children and young people of all ages: [Visit the foster page](#) Phone: 01473 264800 or Email: fosterandadopt@suffolk.gov.uk

Please get in touch with me if you have questions or comments: Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk Tel: 07714-597980
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