

**SEA LINK**

Submission of the Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Planning Inspectorate has been delayed until Quarter 1, 2025. This likely reflects that National Grid (NG), after reviewing feedback from the October – December 2023 Statutory Consultation, and having carried out ‘further environmental and technical assessments and making a series of changes ‘ to their proposals need to undertake further consultations.

Between 8 July and 11 August 2024, NG will update residents, landowners and stakeholders of their plans. Letters will be distributed to some 36,000 homes, their website updated (as of 2 July 2024 this has not happened) and webinar council briefings undertaken. The Town Clerk and I have reserved a place on the webinar in July in relation to NG’s changes.

Thereafter, the first meeting of the Energy Project Working Group will be arranged to discuss any issues that affect Saxmundham.

Additionally, NG will be commencing archaeological surveys from 8 July 2024. I have emailed them to establish the extent of the works in the Saxmundham area.

**LION LINK**

Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk District Council jointly expressed their concerns about the adequacy, effectiveness and especially the fairness of the consultation to date. Their concerns were levelled at the lack of explanation and rationale for the preferred landfall in the Walberswick / Southwold area. The councils asked why landfall could not be achieved with the Sea Link project at Aldeburgh and why NG did not put much effort into considering offshore/brownfield landfall options and automatically discounted them.

Generally, local energy projects hit the headlines in the run up to the General Election. Rishi Sunak visited Sizewell B and pledged to reviews plans to route infrastructure through the Suffolk Countryside. Articles appeared in the Guardian relating to the Grid expansion and a local hustings in Aldeburgh Parish Church was dedicated to the subject.

**SIZEWELL C**

Councillor Di Eastman and I will attend the Sizewell Community Fund meeting on 11 July 2024. It will be interesting to learn if the limit for grants has been increased from £100K parish/town income.