



6 January 2019

Dear Dr Coffey,

First may we wish you a Happy New Year.

As you will have seen from the letter we sent to the BEIS and EFRA select committees on 3rd January 2019, what started as a very local campaign has led us to discover the sheer scale of the failure to anticipate and plan for multiple energy projects in East Suffolk. Further what has gone on with the Bawdsey to Bramford cable route is deeply shocking at a number of levels.

This is now an issue which affects a large part of your constituency and increasingly people are becoming aware of the major disruption and blight on their lives over many years to come with little or no benefit. Energy project after energy project, consultation after consultation cannot be layered on particularly where there have been such manifest failures to date. The latest details from the National Grid on their Interconnector proposals have simply confirmed people's worst fears for the future.

Mitigation is not the answer. By way of example your request for Scottish Power's 18m high substations to be built into the ground has been ignored. Scottish Power told Friston Parish council that they most they can do is 1 (yes that is one) metre into the ground!

The answer has to be to find a brownfield site. Therefore, we fully support your call to review the situation and for the investigation of alternative brownfield options. For example, locating all the substations and grid connections for all projects at Bradwell and/or Lowestoft and/or other brownfield locations. The key to this is the National Grid and their various divisions and a willingness to invest for the long term.

It is easy to make such call. What is more difficult is to get government and the energy sector to meaningfully engage and genuinely seek to find a solution rather than paying lip service to it. The Bawdsey to Bramford fiasco shows how little faith can be placed in National Grid, Scottish Power and I regret to say it the Planning Inspectorate which is meant to be the gatekeeper here. Meanwhile the County and District Councils simply do not have the resources to properly address the issues all these complex energy projects raise.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to explain in more detail what has happened at Bawdsey and to understand what can be actually be done at a practical level to find brownfield locations. If you would prefer to meet a number of community groups at the same time, I am sure that can be arranged.

A large number of your constituents spent Christmas with the dark cloud of all these energy projects hanging over their heads. 2019 and all subsequent years for the foreseeable future are not going to "Happy" for them. So far no one seems to truly care about the impact of these projects on a large number of your constituents' lives. This is your opportunity to show that people and their wellbeing do matter.

Yours sincerely

Michael Mahony (sases.org.uk)