

Cabinet – 9 July 2024

## PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

Item 8.1 – Norwich to Tilbury Powerline consultation response

Statement from Mr B

Jeremy Potter and his team should be congratulated on producing a hard hitting and effective response to the National Grid proposals for pylons as they pass through the Waltham pinch point. They have spelt out the damage the pylons will do to the Walthams, effectively destroying the village amenity, (LW will be one of the hardest hit of any community along the line) severely damaging the high value heritage assets in and around the Village. The report is forceful, direct, and effective and deserves our support.

And they have made the important point that it is not just the Walthams which will be damaged but the entire Chelmsford area. As the line of massive pylons passes too close to the residential centres of the City it will cause irreparable and unnecessary harm.

The report has rightly highlighted the effect of the line on the nationally important Ash Tree Corner Scheduled Monument, positioned adjacent to the LW Village. The LWPC team have carried out research of the publications of the prestigious Council of British Archaeology (who organised the archaeological excavations in 1970s) which have shown the site plan of the Ash Tree Corner site currently used by the NG - was seriously underestimating the extent of the site, which extended across the pylon line.

The LWPC began writing to parties concerned – The CBA, the National Grid, Historic England, and local media ( our thanks to Piers Meyler of Essex Chronicle who wrote a series of excellent supportive articles) .

The CBA were especially grateful to us for bringing the plans of the NG to their attention (we were the first to do so ), said the site should be avoided by the pylon line, that further archaeological excavation was necessary to determine the extent of the site, and that they were entering into consultation with Historic England to review the boundaries of the scheduled Monument. These talks are proceeding as we speak.

At the NG presentation 27 April 2024 Chelmsford Race Course I met Andy Fell a senior staff member with responsibility for assessing alternative routes to the line. He said the Waltham pinch point was the closest and most difficult decision the NG had to take along the entire line. When I explained the Ash Tree site in fact intruded across the pylon line and at least one pylon could be built on top of it he said that if this was right, the NG would have to reconsider and reappraise the line. We are winning and we mustn't give up - keep the pressure up on the NG. Support the draft response by the CCC.