

Ellerker News

Stop Press – Important Communication

National Grid Proposals and Consultation

Over 100 concerned residents attended the Public Meeting held in the Village Hall on 6th July 2023. The overwhelming and possibly unanimous view was that residents should lobby with one voice that neither of the proposed routes i.e. North (Hilldales side) or South (Ring Beck and Howdencroft Hill side) of the village for the new pylons are acceptable and that the cables should be **under – grounded** from Woodale to Broomfleet.

The Parish Council will provide a response to the consultation based on the views and concerns raised at the meeting. It will also write to David Davies, our Member of Parliament, to explain why our concerns must be considered and ask for his support in putting pressure on the National Grid to lay the lines underground. This is not a case of NIMBYism, as residents understand clearly the need for additional infrastructure to support clean energy targets for the future. Rather they are voicing the concern that under-grounding is not being offered as an option because of the significant additional costs associated with routing them in this way.

Every household is now encouraged to complete the *Stage one consultation feedback form*, either in hard copy or electronically, and to include any / all of the reasons below as to why they are objecting to the 2 options proposed. Please focus your comments particularly on the sections that impact on Ellerker:

Section 2 – Skidby to A63 Dual carriageway

Section 3 - A63 dual carriageway to River Ouse Crossing.

The key issues from the meeting and correspondence received:

- Route – Should the new lines be to the North, South (Adjacent to the existing lines with a minimum space of 80m) or underground?
- Underground lines would significantly increase the infrastructure cost. A cooling system would be required. Suggestion made that Ellerker residents respond strongly for underground where possible in the section from Woodale to Broomfleet and close pairing if the lines have to be overhead. In the National Grid report they acknowledge the sensitivity of the area and state that avoiding impact will be ‘difficult’.
- The routing of the existing pylons from Woodale and past Ellerker caused great and long-lasting animosity within the small community, pitching residents against each other. Asking residents to choose the route for overhead cables has the potential to divide this small community once again.
- A cross over of the lines could take place at the top of Woodale if the preferred route was to the South of Ellerker. Proposal made (attached) to use the yellow line - where the pylons could run in close proximity to the others. This would limit visual impact, avoid Ellerker village and also not damage the land alongside the footpath and up to Mount Airy. It also limits the need for a crossover near the A63.
- In Woodale there seems to be a desire to use the land up to Mount Airy which would adversely affect the land, Wolds Way and views for miles. It also locks the properties at Woodale in between two pylon runs. The option of parallel pathing with the existing line needs to be the only way of using overhead - but as above underground should be the strong preference despite National Grid’s protestations and the fact that the area is not

strictly an Area of Natural Beauty. No settlement should be surrounded by overhead lines and pylons.

- Overhead lines are not fit and forget, requiring access by land and air, painting, and create significant noise and possible health risks.
- Visual Amenity impact on the Conservation Area if the lines are overhead. The importance of the views and footpath of the Wolds Way should be preserved along with the mature woodlands.
- From the interactive map they have a very narrow corridor across Woodale and Mount Airy which would grossly impact the landscape, natural habitat, property prices and the Wolds Way National Trail.
- Further information and reassurance required with regards to electricity force fields particularly at the Cross Over point and the potential impact on health.
- Concern expressed that the lines could become an ecological trap, particularly with regards to migrating birds. The Humber is part of the UNESCO East Atlantic highway. We are the pathway that thousands of birds cross and World Heritage are in the process of making the Humber a World Heritage Protected site. More pylons would obstruct their route and the thicker new lines that are proposed.
- Even now with increased traffic as we have had recently due to National Grid assessing the pylons, it has been an issue as there are limited passing places. This route is also heavily used by groups of cyclists, walkers, runners, and for sheep being moved to various fields as well as villagers. There are various weak areas with road bridges. The road has areas of concern which are not on the council's priority list to repair.
- National Grid are seeking to upgrade the line with undue haste, seeking to significantly foreshorten the implementation timescale to 3.5 years. If a judicial review is required this would add 2 years to the implementation timescale. National Grid fear the planning process.
- Compensation – Landowners will receive £6-£9k as a one-off payment for each Pylon with landowners receiving £3K for the lines crossing their land.

Please take special notice

1. Stage 1 of the Consultation concludes at **11.59pm on 27th July 2023**
2. The electronic feedback form can be found at: **nationalgrid.com/nh-hm**
3. South Cave Library is a local information point. Paper copies of the consultation newsletter and feedback questionnaire are available to collect from the library. Ellerker Parish Council also have a small number of feedback questionnaire available via the clerk.
clerk@ellerkerparish.uk
4. Neighbouring Parish Councils will be informed of the outcome of the Public Meeting in the hope that they will support the approach being taken in Ellerker, when submitting their responses to the consultation.

YOUR VIEWS ARE VITAL

Thank you.

Claire Wood
Chairman
Ellerker Parish Council