

Four Questions were raised at the 9 June Energy Election Hustings:

1. “The race is on to achieve net zero by a given date, but does your party recognise that setting an arbitrary date that may turn out to be unrealistic, over ambitious and unattainable will be counter productive in the longterm and will lead to short term decisions being made that are not in the nation’s best interests? At the moment, the only proposals on the table for development of electricity transmission and conversion in East Suffolk are National Grid’s plans which are of course in National Grid’s best interests, not national interests. Does your party recognise that although cost and speed are obviously of paramount importance, getting this right for the future - and we only get one go at this - is absolutely critical and not to consider the option of an offshore grid amounts to negligence?”

Charlotte Fox, Sternfield IP17

2. “Does your party recognise that all the proposals for onshore electricity transmission and conversion in East Suffolk are being driven by National Grid, a publicly listed company motivated by generating profit for its predominantly US and UAE shareholders and that in the absence of any onshore competition, it has an effective monopoly that is allowing it to drive its proposals through in a dominant fashion that is preventing any proper consideration of development of an offshore grid? Will your party ensure that the costings for onshore development are properly costed by neutral advisers against the development of an offshore grid? These costings should also include the cost to the ecology, tourism economy and communities. Do you pledge to push for the full evaluation?”

Fiona Cramb, Friston IP17

3. “On May 21 the East Suffolk District and Suffolk County Council’s issued a joint letter to National Grid Ventures asking LionLink interconnector not to land near Southwold/Walberswick but place it at Aldeburgh Beach instead: I am surprised that our own Green Aldeburgh and Leiston councillor be party to such a decision when we all should be looking to brownfield sites and offshore solutions NOT setting location against location. Q - Do the candidates agree with the Councils' approach to this issue?”

David Mackie, Aldeburgh IP15

4. “ What can - and should - a Suffolk Coastal MP do about the impact of the ‘Suffolk Energy Coast’?”

Philip O’Hear, Reydon IP18