



An update from Jenny Riddell-Carpenter MP

It has been a busy few months across Suffolk Coastal, and I wanted to share an update on one of the issues I know is of greatest importance to our local towns and villages: the scale and coordination of energy infrastructure being proposed across our area.

Energy infrastructure

The Suffolk coast is at the centre of multiple Nationally Significant energy Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). While I fully support the need for the UK to transition to cleaner energy and to strengthen our energy security, I know from speaking to residents, parish councils, farmers and local businesses just how important it is that this is done in a way that is properly planned, coordinated and sensitive to the communities that host it.

Before my recent appointment as a Minister at the Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs, I spent a significant amount of time in Parliament pressing for a more coordinated approach to these projects. This included tabling multiple amendments to the Planning and Infrastructure Bill aimed at strengthening coordination between developers operating in the same area, leading three Westminster Hall debates on energy infrastructure in Suffolk Coastal, meeting Ministers, and bringing developers together to encourage better coordination – including the better alignment of plans and timelines.

Although my proposed amendment to introduce a legal coordination requirement was not taken forward, I am pleased that there is now a growing recognition of the need for greater coordination between projects, including from the Minister in the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. I have also been involved in the coordination group chaired by Ofgem, which brings together those responsible for major energy infrastructure projects in our area.

I have consistently made the case that where multiple major projects are being delivered in the same geography, there must be proper consideration of the cumulative impact on local communities. That includes better sequencing of construction, improved communication between developers, greater use of shared infrastructure where possible, and ensuring that communities hosting these projects see clear and meaningful local benefits.



My team and I will continue to support residents, parish councils and businesses affected by energy infrastructure projects, raise local concerns directly with the relevant developers, hold developers to account on the impacts of their projects, and ensure that local voices continue to be heard.

Take part in my energy infrastructure research

I am currently undertaking a research report on the energy projects in Suffolk Coastal, and I am running a series of surveys to hear directly from residents, businesses, farmers, parish councils and community groups about their experiences and the impact of these developments.

I would be grateful if you could [take part by completing the survey or surveys](#) that are most relevant to you. You are welcome to complete more than one if you feel you can contribute in different ways.

Your views will help build a detailed picture of the cumulative impact of these projects across Suffolk Coastal. This evidence will feed directly into my energy report, which I will be presenting to developers, and regulators. The aim of this work is to push for better coordination between projects, stronger mitigation of impacts on local communities, and clearer, more meaningful benefits for the areas hosting this infrastructure.

Keeping in touch

Parish and town councils are often the first to hear about the issues affecting their communities, so please continue to keep me and my team updated about concerns or opportunities in your area.

You can also find the latest updates on my work on energy infrastructure across Suffolk Coastal at:

www.jennyforsuffolkcoastal.org/energy

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Member of Parliament for Suffolk Coastal