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South Norfolk Council September Report

South Norfolk Council has had several challenges over the last few months.

One was the number of large Solar Farms proposed for the area which will not be considered or decided by SN Planning Service but by Ed Milliband, Secretary of State for Energy.

They will cover thousands of acres between Hempnall and Diss, some of which is good quality farming land. People living in these areas are very concerned and the council has objected to these.

Local people are also very concerned about the pylons planned to take electricity from Mangreen to Tilbury. Underground cables were used to get the electricity from the wind turbines off the coast, but the Government says it would be too expensive to use cables from Norwich to Tilbury.

There has also been an issue re the Government planning to move women and children refugees out of a hotel in Diss, where they have been living for a couple of years, to provide accommodation for young single male refugees. It was not known where the women would be transferred to. South Norfolk has supported local people, and the hotel, who objected to this plan. The Government has decided that it will no longer use the hotel for anyone.

The Council has been working on its Devolution and Local Government Reform proposal to replace the current districts and county council by two Unitary Councils. The other districts have been proposing three Unitaries and Norfolk County Council will be submitting a plan for one Unitary. All submissions must be sent in by September 26th and the Government will decide which proposal to support early next year.

Community Action Fund

Easton Gym made a successful bid to the Community Action Fund and now have sufficient funding for their project to put solar panels on the roof of their building.

Many groups had submitted applications which totalled more than 100% more than the funding available. The grant may be repeated within the next year so that groups that missed out have another chance to submit an application.

Margaret

Cllr Margaret Dewsbury
Easton Ward
South Norfolk Council

