

# Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY  
SINCE 1870

## Time to listen to the people over Broads pylon proposals

The prospect of some of our most beautiful and precious scenery being spoiled by pylons may seem unthinkable, but it is a very real threat.

It was in November that, here at the EDP, we launched our Say No To Pylons campaign, after we learned with incredulity that energy produced by a massive wind farm off the East Anglian coast could have to reach the National Grid in a decidedly invasive way.

While detailed plans have yet to be drawn up, the cables which will connect that electricity to the National Grid could be carried by ugly pylons looming over some of the best landscapes Norfolk and Suffolk have to offer. Hundreds of our readers have backed our campaign, demonstrating the fury and indignation which greeted the possibility of the pylons snaking through areas such as the Yare and Waveney valleys.

If there is simply no other way to avoid passing through such wonderful scenery, those cables simply must go underground – that's what the many critics of the proposal argue.

So it is good to learn that South Norfolk Council and the Broads Authority have secured a summit meeting with representatives of the National Grid and those behind the East Anglia One wind farm.

South Norfolk Council leader John Fuller says that the aim of the meeting is to let the representatives know the issues which really matter to people and has praised the EDP campaign for helping to highlight what those issues are.

The detailed plans are likely to emerge this year, possibly in the summer, when public consultation will get under way in earnest.

It's essential the views of Norfolk and Suffolk people are listened to and, even more importantly, acted upon.

## Pressure from baby boom

In a county like Norfolk, where we have a high percentage of older people living longer, you often hear about how that demographic is putting a strain on health services.

But the EDP today lifts the lid on how a surge at the opposite end of the spectrum is also heaping pressure on the county's hospitals.

An increase in babies being born in Norfolk, coupled with a need for more midwives, has meant that two of the county's hospitals have had to close their maternity wards.

That has led to some pregnant women, albeit a relatively small number, having to be sent to other hospitals to have their babies, a situation which is far from ideal at what can be a very traumatic time.

Both the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in King's Lynn have said they are hoping to expand their maternity wards.

However, the big question in the current economic climate is, will the money be available for them to be able to turn those hopes into reality?

## Buoyant about boating

With the wonderful Broads on our doorstep, boats are big business in Norfolk and Suffolk.

And the international spotlight is being shone on the region's proud boat-building tradition at the Tullett Prebon London Boat Show.

All sorts of vessels feature in the show and that's great for the county – because the sales made bring money back into our local economy.

It's excellent news to hear that companies from places such as Thorpe St Andrew, Brundall, Lowestoft, Catfield, Wroxham and Horning are having such a strong showing at the week-long event.

It's vital that we never miss a chance to spread the word about what this fantastic region has to offer.

### WORDS FOR LIFE

Jesus said "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you".  
Matthew 6:44



### READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY



ANTHONY DENTON

ROCK OF AGES: A view of and through Cove Hythe church ruin. If you would like to submit a picture for this feature, visit [www.iwitness24.co.uk](http://www.iwitness24.co.uk)

## A sense of humour that's not for outsiders

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The sense of humour that goes along with the Norfolk dialect isn't a bit like the Cockney humour of London, or the Scouse wit of Liverpool. Norfolk humour is dry, slow, deadpan, sardonic, understated, ironic. Outsiders don't always get it – which is part of the point.

In his book, *In Search of England*, HV Morton wrote about the car trip he took around the country in the 1920s. After he'd travelled from Lincolnshire into Norfolk, he wrote: "I was lost in a Norfolk lane, so I stopped a man and said to him: Good morning, can you tell me if I am right for Norwich?"

"The Norfolk man replied: 'What d'ye want to know for?'"

You and I can see that was a joke. The old Norfolk boy was having him on. But Morton didn't get it. He continued: "I might have been annoyed, but putting on an affable expression, I said: 'My dear old boy, I want to know because I want to get to Norwich'."

Then, patronisingly: "The ghost of a smile flitted over the man's rustic face, and he replied after some deep thought, rather reluctantly, and looking away from me: 'Well, you're right!'"

Morton thought this was because of a distrust of outsiders – the Norfolk man behaved "in an uneasy, suspicious way".



JUST FOR LAUGHS: The Boy John, a man who typified the Norfolk sense of humour.

But of course Morton was quite wrong. Here was a posh, supercilious outsider – driving a car no less – being the victim of Norfolk humour and not realising it.

Norfolk humour, of course, isn't just country people poking fun at sophisticates. The Boy John's Aunt Agatha came up with many an amusing, laconic and wise Norfolk aphorism: "All husbands are alike, only they have different faces so you can tell 'em apart" is a good one.

And city people are pretty sharp too. I was once walking out of the doorway of a shop in Norwich as another man was

coming in. When I stepped to my left to let him pass, he simultaneously moved to his right to let me out, and blocked my exit. So I moved quickly back to my right – but at the same time he stepped in the same direction.

And then the same thing happened again. And again, and again.

The frustrating dance ended when we both stopped, with me still inside and him outside, looking at each other.

Then he said, without cracking his face: "Jus' one more time, then I gotta go home".