

**Comments to Nailsea Town Council**  
**Wednesday 9 December 2009**

Hello and thank you for giving me this chance to speak.

My name is Fiona Erleigh and I chair a group representing residents of West Nailsea. Our group met for the first time last night and I'd like to share with you our thoughts.

Firstly we like to say how disappointed we are that National Grid managers have only identified overhead possibilities for public consideration. We feel they have not given us adequate information about alternatives, nor have they given us sufficiently differing options to consider. Surely less intrusive options such as undersea, underground, along motorways for instance (already a blight on our countryside), should be given higher priority and more weighted consideration, than ones that will have such a huge impact on farmland and fragile natural environments that we all enjoy.

Looking at the overhead options, we are not impressed with National Grid's blatant tactics to divide Nailsea. Some of you may be surprised to hear that we in west Nailsea actually wholeheartedly AGREE with the Save Our Valley campaign. As you know there are THREE overhead options in two corridors. We in West Nailsea cannot support Corridor 2 - it is a completely ridiculous proposal to suggest ring fencing Nailsea in such a way and we wouldn't wish the extra environmental impact for ourselves nor for our neighbours anywhere in Nailsea. We also cannot support the proposal known as Corridor 1b, which is to build the proposed 400kV line as a THIRD separate line parallel to the existing lines. This is a wasteful proposal and would indicate only National grid's and Western Power's inability to work together for the good of the communities they serve.

So we come to the crux of the matter. We in west Nailsea are left with only one overhead possibility to seriously consider, which is Corridor 1a - the option to replace the more westerly existing 132kV line with the new 400kV one. We feel cornered into supporting this option with its monster pylons nearly twice the size of the existing ones. We certainly don't WANT that near our homes and spoiling the special nature of Nailsea Moor.

HOWEVER we are prepared to support this option IF and ONLY IF National Grid AND Western Power agree to move all the existing powerlines and pylons far away from our homes. This IS an excellent opportunity to improve the quality of life for all the people in west Nailsea who live next to or under powerlines.

Obviously, we would PREFER to have these new monster pylons go elsewhere, but we do want to emphasize that wherever the new line is put, residents of west Nailsea will not rest until our existing powerlines are moved away.

Finally I'd like to thank Nailsea Town Council for considering our views and incorporating them in their response to National Grid.