10 February 2025. RIIO3@ofgem.gov.uk

Please find below Denby Parish Council response to RII03. On behalf of the residents of Denby Parish we would like our concerns to be noted.

**Submission to Ofgem’s call for evidence RIIO3[[1]](#footnote-1)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **NGET’s pledges to communities** | **Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington project** |
| it is consulting with communities early in the planning process | Not the case. NGET consulted after it had decided on a preferred option and discarded other options. |
| We make changes to our proposals where possible and if we cannot, we explain why | The changes sought by stakeholders including local communities, parish councils, district councils, County Councils and MPs were:   * for HVDC undergrounding the entire route or where possible. This does not seem to have been investigated by NGET despite being technically feasible, popular, less harmful to the environment, less harmful to businesses including tourism and agricultural and potentially cheaper over the lifetime than pylons * The devaluation of property has been underestimated – we have now been told it can be 40%. Why should a small number of the population stand the costs of the entire country. |
| We are deploying digital tools, like 3D visualisations, to make it easier for people to engage with the developments we are proposing for their communities. | The only “3D” tools available have been via a single screen at public information events, with no information to take away. This meant that only people who were able to attend an event could see the impact of the project and the height of the pylons was insignificant along with the curtain of huge cables some hanging just 7.8m above the ground. Given that the events were mostly during working hours and some at a distance from the route/communities, this severely restricted numbers who could then understand the impact of the N2T project.  Further, some of the visualisations contained in the Statutory consultation pack were of an incredibly poor standard to the extent that 50m-high pylons were shown to be much smaller than trees. |
| We aim to deliver the highest standards of public consultations and community relations so we can develop infrastructure proposals that are shaped by local input and create a greater level of community acceptance | We have serious concerns about NGET’s consultations.  Once the findings of the non-statutory consultation are published we may know more. The number of submissions in the last two week leading to the 17th September were 6,000 yet NG state only approx. 2,500 received? Incorrect date was given for one Drop IN and an incorrect address published for another. |
| We try to make it convenient and easy for local communities to find out about our planned network upgrades and to tell us what matters to them | NGET has made it very difficult for people. The majority of the drop-in events were during working hours. Many of them were far from affected areas. Many were accessible only by car. Answers to questions were hard to come by. Answers to email were very scripted and did not always answer the questions posed |
| Online webinars, community update newsletters, social media advertising, consultation documents and information in local libraries, briefings for parish councils and elected members, one-to-one stakeholder briefings, telephone call-backs and language translation where necessary, really help we reach as many people as possible in the community | They help if people can travel so far. The initial paper delivered in May 2024 looked like junk mail and with the prominent heading Chesterfield To Willington, a huge amount of residents en route did not realise how it would affect them. In fact the first 2 issues of the submission forms missed out one section of a village community in total. |
| Building trust through data transparency C4.4  Customers and stakeholders told us at our pathway to net zero events they need data from all industry players, and data needs to be more accessible, and once published, the datasets must be accurate for practical use | We are finding it hard to understand how the costings have been made as whenever asked, NG state it is historical values. Even the cost of a pylon cannot be made according to NG because of the unknown – where buying materials from. |

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)