

## Nettlestead Parish Meeting Chairman's Report

May 2024

Little has changed over the past year within the parish, which has probably been to the liking of most residents.

The year has, however, been one of the wettest on record. Nettlestead has got off relatively lightly compared to some other Suffolk villages in terms of property flooding. However the excessive rainfall has caused problems with regard to transport links through neighbouring parishes on a number of occasions. Valley Road, Baylham Road and the C450 through Somersham, all of which were impassable at times. The impact has been felt not just in the need for Nettlestead residents to undertake lengthy diversions, but also in the additional traffic experienced on Hall Lane and Valley Road.

More broadly the move towards greener electricity generation has led to a number of planning applications for solar farms nearby – though not, so far, within Nettlestead. Likewise, offshore windfarms have stimulated National Grid's proposal for the Norwich to Tilbury Upgrade Project. As proposed, this does not place any further pylons within Nettlestead, though many proposed for the surrounding area will be visible from various parts of the parish.

Finally I must note that recent parish meetings have attracted fewer attendees, despite the welcome contributions from our elected District and County Councillors. I hope we can reverse this trend in coming years, otherwise the future of the Meeting will be uncertain.