

OULTON PARISH COUNCIL – PINS REFERENCE 20022619
NORFOLK BOREAS – DEADLINE 1 SUBMISSION.

Record of Oulton Parish Council (OPC) verbal presentations at the Open Floor Hearing 13th November 2019.

1. Paul Killingback, Chair, Oulton Parish Council.

As Chair of Oulton PC I would, with respect, like to encourage the Panel not to be blinkered by this one proposed application. I understand that technically you can only consider this application in isolation. However, as the residents of Oulton and ALL of North Norfolk are likely to be affected by at least 3 other similar applications - all overlapping the same timeframes - the cumulative effects must not be underestimated and must be adequately considered.

The huge amount of work my small PC has already done on the 2 projects to date - attending hearings, setting up working parties, completing written submissions for every deadline and becoming unpaid experts on electricity transmission systems, substation design, highways and traffic management, noise and environmental matters - has had a cost. Now we are being asked to start this work over again – and each time another windfarm wishes to come ashore. This is not efficient or fair on us or the people we represent and who are most affected by these proposals, constantly having to re-submit the same information and arguments over again.

There is one cumulative impact that has not been considered to date. It is the stress on all of the councillors and communities of having to continue to face up to these seemingly never-ending assaults – the cause of which is an inadequate level of infrastructure investment by the National Grid – who to date have not been involved in any of the examinations that OPC have attended. We have already suggested to the Panel that National Grid should be included in this examination.

I believe that the only hope for Oulton, and Norfolk as a whole, is that the Panel take full account of all 4 currently proposed projects and recommend a common-sense approach – that the Secretary of State reviews the National Grid's current process for the awarding of on-shore grid connections and grasps the chance to develop a more efficient system of 'plugging in' this and any future windfarms.

Norfolk and its residents cannot continually be held to ransom like this when there is an alternative solution to onshore cabling that works for other countries. New technologies like wind power generation require new infrastructure investment and I would like the Panel to make this point to the Secretary of State, in as strong terms as possible, in their report and recommendation.

Paul Killingback
Chair
Oulton Parish Council
13 November 2019

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2. Susan Mather, Resident/Parish Councillor.

As a resident of Oulton and a parish councillor I am becoming very concerned about how the increasing number of off-shore wind farm projects are going to impact the onshore rural communities in the long term.

Oulton will potentially see a Main Construction compound for Hornsea three along with Norfolk vanguard/Boreas cable route, mobilisation area and cable logistics area at the southern end of the village. The impact will be from noise, increased HGV traffic, construction, compound deliveries and possible night time work.

Noise is something which needs to be considered in more detail, especially in older houses, it seems that there is an assumption we all live in new builds. In rural communities like Oulton they are quite often made up of old houses, not insulated or have sealed unit double glazing, bedrooms are into the eaves and with that comes the impact of external noise. I would query whether noise assessments are robust enough to consider just how noise carries and how it is heard inside an old building, I have experienced the effect of external noise has inside my own house at night and the loss of sleep for several months was debilitating.

The onshore construction period will be 'temporary' that is what we are told, currently this is 8-10 years, with the potential of yet another project and others to follow as the east coast seems to be earmarked for offshore wind, then for Norfolk it is beginning to seem very permanent.

The potential disruption for Norfolk should not be underestimated, with potential road closures and diversions, life will need careful planning as the trip to work, school, doctors and hospital will be challenging.

Oulton will have three Link roads surrounding the village from the current proposed projects, Link 68/75/208 those together with the B1149 having road works the residents of Oulton could have an interesting diversion route, as will residents in other parts of Norfolk while construction work goes on.

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3. Alison Shaw, Oulton Parish councillor - on behalf of the residents of The Old Railway Gatehouse.
(This statement was first submitted to the Hornsea Project Three Examination.)

We are concerned with the sound and vibration results they are using, as a layman their charts and scales are meaningless to us.

We are seriously worried with their constant conclusion of 'AVERAGE' - no average noise level has ever disturbed anyone, it is the individual incidents. I dare say the average noise levels at a premiership football club are very low, yet on a match day a number of incidents would result in very high noise levels. It is the individual incidents and frequency that concerns us. We have had no consistent answers with regard to the above from the applicant.

The applicant would have a scale on a graph that 'all is well' and disturbance would be minimal - none of which is meaningful to the layman. We are very disappointed as of yet we have still to see documented evidence as to the effects on the residents wellbeing, physically and mentally, and the loss of quality of life.

The impact on our air quality is very concerning. The project would increase dust volumes and diesel fumes in very close proximity to our property over a long period of time, with detrimental effects to our health and our animals health.

What is the long term damage caused by this? We have no answers!

We have yet to see any work done by the applicant to assess this around or even near our property, and any suggestions they may have to rectify this, and the impact this will have on our lives.

Regards,
Clive Searson & Nicola Tanner - Residents of 'The Old Railway Gatehouse'

The following statement was received by Alison Shaw (Oulton Parish councillor) in an email from the above residents on the day following the Open Floor Hearing. They requested that the Parish Council submit this on their behalf at Deadline 1.

Dear Alison,
So sorry we were unable to attend.

Boreas have not made contact with us, as Vattenfall (Vanguard) have not either! It makes you realise they do not care and are only focused on their end goal!

We do feel deeply that our lovely home is just a blot on the landscape for all concerned and no one cares about the effects this project will have on us long term. Quality of life, mental state and physical safety and general well being.

The people who are running these projects get to go home after their days work. This is our home and it will be like a war zone traffic wise and noise wise. Our house physically shakes when lorry's go past for the potato store and chicken farm and the farm machinery too affects us. This is going to increase to unacceptable levels. Lorries sitting revving engines outside our house ... WILL cause pollution and will NOT be minimal.

We are so upset about all of this and it is affecting us deeply. We cannot sell our house and move as no one would want to buy with all this going on. We bought this as our forever home until the end of our days. We are stuck here now with no choice.

This project should not be considered as we have not been considered in any of it!

Clive Searson and Nicola Tanner - Residents of The Old Railway Gatehouse

4. Alison Shaw - **on behalf of Corpusty and Saxthorpe Parish Council**

BRIEF STATEMENT FROM PROFESSOR TONY BARNETT

13 November 2019

1. I do not object to use of wind powered energy generation.
2. I wish to draw to the Examiners' attention several issues to do with the public health and welfare effects of the construction process for Boreas (and associated schemes) as it impacts upon people and communities living along the route of the B1149 and the B1145.
3. I also wish to draw to the Examiners' attention vital technical issues associated with project costing methods deployed uncritically in the project documentation. I believe that my observations should be taken very seriously in any assessment of the viability and true social costs of the proposal.
4. I approach the Examiners in the spirit of exploring and ensuring proper consideration of public health risks and costs to wellbeing generated by this national infrastructure project as currently conceived.
5. I do this on behalf of Corpusty and Saxthorpe Parish Council, from my personal position as a resident of Corpusty, and from the perspective of my professional experience.
6. My full evidence, constituting a technical document of some 8500 words, was submitted to and received by Ms Seân Evans, Case Manager, National Infrastructure Planning on 11 November for consideration by the Examiners.