

**SHERINGHAM SHOAL & DUDGEON WIND FARM EXTENSION PROJECTS**

**DEADLINE1 SUBMISSION** (*confirmation of verbal statement, answer to WQ1 query, attendance at ISH 3-6 & OFH2*)

**A - CONFIRMATION OF VERBAL SUBMISSIONS TO NSIP HEARINGS HELD ON 17<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2023**

**1 – Preliminary Meeting**

For the Preliminary Meeting we do not have a lot to add to the initial Representation we submitted in October. We do want to emphasise our opinion that the Examination should take the wider view, including the role of National Grid and its associated companies, the consideration given to alternative routes and methods of delivery and cumulative impacts on communities over time including both physical and mental health issues.

**2 – Open Floor Hearing 1**

Cawston Parish Council is not opposed to wind farms. We are strong supporters of renewable energy and the drive to net zero. BUT we are totally opposed to badly thought out construction projects that could, and should, have been done better, in a way that weights the interests and welfare of Norfolk residents more fairly – at least on a par with kittiwakes.

It was difficult for CPC to attend the hearings in person as roadworks that are part of the Orsted and Vattenfall projects closed our High Street for two weeks. This caused much disruption and buses were cancelled.

This may be the first physical example of the impacts of the three consented wind farm developments which will affect Cawston over a number of years to come, but please take into account that CPC has already been heavily engaged in dealing with these proposals for the last six years. This has included attendance at meetings and hearings, communications with residents and especially the need to familiarise ourselves with 1000s of pages from complex documents, also researching various assertions and statements which sometimes proved to be misleading.

All of this work is unpaid, often using councillors' personal resources, and we are simply worn out, with no resources left to engage with this latest DCO proposal in detail.

Equinor will tell you that they alone will not route HGV traffic through the centre of Cawston, so there is little impact on the community. This argument ignores the need for residents to travel outside the village, for work, schools, medical appointments, etc, and for businesses to deal with deliveries and get their staff to work. The other developers have at least amended their working hours to recognise this; Equinor refused.

Equinor may also imply that their eastern route round the village was designed to remove impact. In fact this was the only space left for them; if approved, their cable route would complete the encirclement of the village, so there was no choice.

As well as the inadequate B1145, Equinor also plan to send traffic on minor unclassified roads in the area. These are often used for recreation by cyclists, walkers and horse riders; we do suggest there is a serious road safety issue to be considered.

In assessing cumulative impacts we argue that there are two approaches, which we might describe as horizontal and vertical. The horizontal approach would consider a situation where two or more schemes overlap in the same time frame. A vertical view would look at the impacts of successive schemes over time. In Cawston we will experience both.

In this case we ask you to consider the situation in Cawston within a vertical perspective, while also recognising the horizontal. The Equinor schemes will add several more years to the effects of the three previous ones. We argue that this is an unacceptable load on a small rural community.

#### **B – RESPONSE TO 1<sup>st</sup> WRITTEN QUESTIONS 1.23.1.9**

We were requested to provide photographic evidence of HGVs using the B1145. Attached are a number of photos taken recently by a parish councillor, showing the difficulties faced both by HGV drivers and traffic coming the other way. These are just an example of situations which occur every day.





**C – ATTENDANCE AT HEARINGS IN MARCH (ISH 3-6 & OFH2)**

We regret that we do not expect to be able to attend the Hearings in March. At present all of our available time and resource is being spent on dealing with Orsted/Vattenfall and their CTMP issues, so we would have nothing substantive to add to the above comments.

However, we would like to reserve a provisional place in case circumstances change. We would then confirm attendance or absence shortly before the Hearings.