CAWSTON PARISH COUNCIL

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SHERINGHAM SHOAL & DUDGEON WIND FARM EXTENSION PROJECTS

DEADLINE 8 SUBMISSION

Firstly, can we thank the ExA and staff for their rigour in conducting the examination.

We also wish to recognise the efforts and input of the many unpaid local councils, organisations and individuals who have researched and made detailed submissions, pointing out the weaknesses in the application, the benefits of alternative grid connections and the possibility to split onshore and offshore approval.

We support these submissions wholeheartedly.

Unfortunately CPC itself has been unable to contribute fully to this examination; time and resources are limited and the demands of dealing with the previously approved DCOs have been great.

Examples of these challenges include

- Poor communications, both with the council and in passing important information to residents, so that the PC has had to step in to try to keep residents informed as best it can.
- Delays in response to queries that are often urgent.
- Community Liaison Officers becoming just another link in the delay process, often failing themselves to respond in a timely manner – or even at all.
- Difficulty arranging meetings or getting information, and then meetings being arranged to suit the developer, only to be cancelled at the last minute, or attended just by sub-contractors who cannot deal with the key points.
- Failure to provide promised information on time, with dubious excuses and unkept promises.
- Having to challenge blunders made by contractors, such as the wrong parking signage which resulted in residents being given fines, removal of the village gateways which had been purchased by the PC and have still not been replaced as agreed and failure to replace damaged signs.
- Contractor vehicles failing to adhere to agreed routes and passing through residential areas.

And all of this is just at the pre-construction stage! We now face many years of monitoring the activities of developers and their contractors and challenging their failures to comply.

Please consider the cumulative impacts in Cawston, both when schemes overlap and the impacts of successive schemes over time. These Equinor schemes will add several more years to the impacts of the three previous ones, and they have refused even to consider the small concessions, such as those on working times, made by the other applicants. This application places an unacceptable load on the wellbeing of a small rural community.

In conclusion we repeat a paragraph from a previous submission. "*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*."