Deadline 8 Submission from Weybourne Parish Council 2023.07.17

Weybourne is currently – once again – at the sharp end of a wind farm, cable corridor construction: Hornsea Three wind farm, which is making landfall at Weybourne, is now in the construction phase. SEP and DEP are also going to be making landfall here. We are now experiencing the reality of what this actually means: what you see on paper and what you read about do not give any real idea of the impact of these projects on the landscape and the community. I have attached some pictures* that show the first stages of the construction process (creation of haulage road splays and the start of the haulage roads), which is really only the preparation for the actual cable trenching, so this is just the tip of the iceberg. It is a true scar across the countryside, and is repeated in many areas within walking distance of the village.

Added to this, we are also witnessing the reality of the traffic impact from the construction of a cable corridor. There is a steady stream of HGVs rumbling along our narrow roads. Many of them do not abide by the 20-mph speed limit. Some of them use routes that are not designated for this purpose, causing other vehicles to have to reverse long distances, or causing damage to the verges, which will create issues of soil erosion as well as the destruction of plant habitats and the biodiversity which they support. Others drive through the narrow streets of the village with reckless abandon, pinning pedestrians against the walls of the buildings – there are no pavements along much of the length of the route from Sheringham to Kelling and the streets are therefore widely used by residents accessing their homes, as well as walkers visiting the area. I include pictures** of one of the official routes, but in many places narrow with no passing places, and no pavement to act as a refuge for pedestrians; the vehicle was so large it would not fit on a single image.

The SEP and DEP projects IF BOTH CONSTRUCTED (which is by no means a given) will provide just 0.7 GW of renewable energy, which raises the question of whether this actually genuinely qualifies as a NSIP. Regardless of the amount of energy it provides, the destruction and upheaval will be the same as for a truly significant project. Moreover, this project requires two sets of cables and even if the projects are constructed concurrently (again, by no means a given) the impact on the community and the environment will be devastating and excessive in view of the low capacity of these wind farms.

It is still possible to stop this from happening all over again with the SEP/DEP wind farm as this is a near-shore wind farm, close to The Wash, and an alternative, much less damaging, onshore grid connection could be made available. There is considerable evidence for the viability of a connection at Walpole or the adjacent Sutton Bridge and written evidence has been submitted to the Examination on this issue from several Interested Parties. As Walpole is just seven miles from the

coast, this would eliminate the need for the current 60 km cable path and avoid almost all of the cumulative impacts affecting those communities in Norfolk already facing disruption from Hornsea Three, Norfolk Vanguard and Boreas.

A further issue of wind farm construction that has not been raised with the Panel as far as I am aware, is that of marine litter. I have been involved with beach cleans in the AONB from Blakeney Point (a National Nature Reserve and SSSI) to Weybourne for more than four years, and across that whole period, one of the most commonly found items of litter is sections of plastic cable casing, which is believed to emanate from the offshore construction of the previous wind farms – the original Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon projects. I include a photograph***. There is nothing to suggest that the technicians of either Hornsea 3 or SEP and DEP will take any more care with their debris, unless strict controls and monitoring are put in place, meaning that the beaches of Norfolk – and further afield – will continue to be blighted by this marine litter for decades to come. The impact of these plastic items on marine wildlife and the food chain – including for human consumption – is not yet known, but plastics are thought to bioaccumulate.

Valerie Stubbs,

Parish Councillor with responsibility for environmental issues, writing on behalf of Weybourne Parish Council

* 9 PHOTOS

"Hornsea 3 High Kelling 1"

"Hornsea 3 High Kelling 2"

"Hornsea 3 High Kelling 3"

"Hornsea 3 High Kelling Squirrelwood Stables 4"

"Hornsea 3 High Kelling Squirrelwood Stables 7"

"Hornsea 3 Holt Road Weybourne 3"

"Hornsea 3 Kelling 1"

"Hornsea 3 Kelling 5"

"Hornsea 3 Kelling 7"

** 2 PHOTOS

"Hornsea 3 Earth Mover in Weybourne Part 1"

"Hornsea 3 Earth Mover in Weybourne Part 2"

*** 1 PHOTO

"Cable casing from Blakeney Point beach"







Advance Notice Of Construction Works

his Public Right of Way (PROW) is crowed by the onshiore cable for this project

During its construction die PRow mai a short diversion and we have so its with a so its to watch a die index add watch add watc



















