From: To:

Aquind Interconnector

Subject: Objection to AQUIND Interconnector Project

Date: 05 October 2020 17:38:36
Attachments: AQUIND Objection.docx

Sir,

Attached objection forwarded for consideration.

T A STARK

To whom it may concern,

Recently published information, suggests that AQUIND has changed its policy over the disruption that may be caused to Eastney Lake and Milton Piece Allotment sites during, and after, the laying of its Interconnector Cable.

During initial consultations with plot-holders, AQUIND representatives stated clearly that there would be no disruption to plots as the intent was to drill cable tunnels underneath the site. We now understand that AQUIND is asking for new Access, Connection and Landscaping rights which, if approved, would allow it unrestricted access to the site over the lifetime of the Interconnector Cable (50 years, 60 years??) during which it would have carte blanche to do anything it wished provided it was associated with the cable. Potentially, this means that sheds, trees, plants and wildlife could be removed/destroyed without any future consultation with, or cognizance of the needs of, individual plot holders who could be denied access to their plots for an indefinite period of time. A worst case scenario (work/access being undertaken in mid-summer) could see twelve months of a plot-holder's labour being destroyed at considerable financial and emotional cost.

As has been proven over the last six months, an allotment can make an important contribution to an individual's mental health and general wellbeing - particularly in a densely populated city such as Portsmouth where many residents live in either flats or properties with no gardens. It can be a peaceful place to go to and for many, a much needed source of exercise. It is also an important and welcome substitute for a non-existent private garden where they can relax and enjoy the benefits of an outdoor life in relative privacy. To allow AQUIND the right to interfere with such a lifestyle in the manner and timescale it is seeking is totally unacceptable.

On behalf of the 196 members of Eastney and Milton Allotments Association I object to the development as currently proposed.

T A STARK

Chairman, Eastney & Milton Allotments Association

5 October 2020