From: [redacted]
To: Aquind Interconnector
Subject: Objections to Aquind Interconnector project
Date: 05 October 2020 23:40:49

Dear Sir or Madam,

I would like to raise my strong objections to the planned Aquind interconnector route through Portsmouth on account of the environmental damage this will cause and the potential loss of outdoor areas including the Milton allotments, and habitats which are vital to conserving wildlife and birdlife from in areas from Eastney/Craneswater to Farlington Marshes. The project cuts into so many areas of Portsmouth in a way which, overall, is very harmful to local residents.

These outdoor spacess have provided a lifeline not only to the wildlife in the area, but also to residents affected by the coronavirus lockdown and the rules on socialising in its aftermath. If the pandemic has proved anything, it has been the importance of nature to people as an outdoor escape. It is not reasonable at this time to sign off a project such as the pipeline, which puts many outdoor areas of the city in jeopardy.

Residents of Portsmouth who stand to lose by the construction of this pipeline have not been adequately consulted on this. I do appreciate the need to consider projects which contribute to national infrastructure, this should not be 'done to' the city of Portsmouth and its outdoor habitats without a proper opportunity for consultation and objections to be raised. I understand that this project is being deemed a 'done deal' due to its strategic national importance. I am also aware that Aquind has donated substantial amounts of money to the Conservative Party, including to Boris Johnson's leadership bid, and to at least five constituencies, to the point where, for example, the Business Secretary [redacted] has said he is unable to take part in negotiations, which surely compromises the process alone. I would urge that this matter is properly investigated as to whether a fit and proper process has been followed.

In addition, the origin of the fuels which would flow through the pipeline has not been adequately explained.

I would urge that, at least until such a time that these matters are transparently explained and the people of Portsmouth given the opportunity to scrutinise and be consulted on the plans, they should be shelved.

Yours Sincerely,
Ian Johnson
Local resident of Portsmouth [redacted]