From:	Pitt, Steve (Cllr)
To:	Aquind Interconnector
Cc:	Laven, Kieran; Baily, Stephen; Rozier, Adrian; Stribling, Dave
Subject:	Milton and Eastney Lake Allotments
Date:	04 October 2020 08:50:25

To Whom it May Concern

I am writing as Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Economic Development at Portsmouth City Council.

I understand that the Council will, quite rightly, make its own representations in this matter but as the allotments are part of my portfolio, I wanted to include a more personal objection on behalf of a lot of very concerned local people as well as adding my own perspective.

This is very simple. Any suggestion whatsoever that anything Aquind are given permission to do will interfere with the quiet enjoyment of the plot holders at the allotments, will be met with the fiercest resistance by myself and the local community.

For many of the plot holders, their allotment is their exercise, their social life and a source of healthy food. Their allotments are a vital part of their physical and mental health. Their allotments mean a huge amount to them and for Aquind to do anything to interfere with that would, let's be perfectly clear, be no different in their eyes than marching into their back gardens at home and levelling them without permission. It is unthinkable.

As Cabinet Member, I am appalled that any consideration would be given to such a suggestion.

This is not just about whether Aquind can cross this section of land using horizontal drilling and therefore not disrupt the plots. Any future need for maintenance would involve accessing the cable from the surface. Are we to accept that at some future date, Aquind can just turn up and clear plots to maintain its cable? I think not.

The only and I do mean only possible proposal here if you are minded to approve this scheme over which Portsmouth City Council has been neutered by the Secretary of State, is for a very narrowly defined route to be agreed that only runs via the existing access road and paths. It cannot encroach onto any of the plots.

The better outcome is to ditch this unnecessary and fantastical scheme in its entirety.

If the current proposals are granted allowing Aquind effective landlord rights over this green lung in our city, leaving unacceptable uncertainty and anxiety for every plot holder or years to come, please do understand that we will not stand idly by and accept your DCO decision. We will fight on until the rights of the people are respected.

When I first met the Aquind team, it was very clear to me that in their view, this was a project that was going to happen, regardless of what anyone thought and the unbelievable arrogance and disrespect for local people was palpable.

I said directly to them and their consultants at that time that if Aquind persisted to insist on doing to and not with the people of Portsmouth, they would meet fierce resistance. I believe the expression I used was "to the barricades". This remains my view and I urge you to rein in this unacceptable proposal and consider the rights and views of the people of this

city above those of this interloper.

Regards,

Cllr Steve Pitt
Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Economic Development
Portsmouth City Council

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