From: [redacted]
To: Aquind Interconnector
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Objection to route of Aquind Interconnector infastructre project through Portsmouth
Date: 05 October 2020 18:22:43

Dear Inspector,

I write to object in the strongest possible terms to the Aquind interconnector infrastructure project, due to come to land here in Portsmouth.
I object to these plans for the following reasons:
1) There has been consistent lack of transparency, overly complicated/technical and ever-changing plans. Information from Aquind has been hard to access and difficult to follow /understand for many people. The changes and what appears to be deliberate obfuscation and lack of clarity mean that the Aquind's plans and intentions are slippery and cannot be trusted.
Example: Milton allotments weren't part of the formal consultation with the public as an area that could be affected. In latest plans released by the company this area is now included.
2) Lack of quality engagement with the public.
Example: There have been several inadequate and poorly-managed consultations with the public, including letters to residents asking for home owners details and house prices. The late addition of Milton allotments has not given time for dissemination, discussion or consultation about the exact nature, extent and duration of disruption and loss of amenity for residents.
3) Unacceptable level of disruption to the city.
Portsmouth is the second most densely populated city in the country after London. There are 3 roads off and on to the island and limited green space.
Example: The plans show that one of these roads (Eastern Road A2030) would have lanes closed to traffic. These works would dramatically reduce access to and from the city for a considerable period of time, causing huge delays backing up onto the M27 and A3. As has been experienced in the past, any blockage or delay on one of the access routes quickly affects the rest of the city and easily leads to gridlock affecting the lives and work of thousands of people. The extensive disruption to the A2030 would add to congestion, increase journey times and advesely affect the lives and livelihoods of residents all over the city for a prolonged period of time and this is unacceptable.
4) Environmental impact on the city.
Example: The plans go directly through green spaces, protected areas and areas with specific wildlife protections. Farlington Marshes, Langstone Harbour Milton common, locks and now Milton and Eastney Allotments. If this goes ahead the effect on wildlife due to increase in pollution/traffic levels of idle vehicles in the surrounding area due to disruption caused by the projects road works will be catastrophic and the safeguards apparently conferred by such designations as SSSI status etc will be shown as worthless.
5) Loss of amenity and quality of life for residents
Portsmouth has fewer parks and open spaces than other comparable cities; housing is

densely packed and gardens -even of larger properties- are often no more than small courtyards. Flat dwellers of course have no outside space of their own. Access to public green space and the natural environment is crucial to the health and wellbeing of residents for walking, cycling, leisure and exercise. Removing access to green space in such a crowded city will have an unacceptably detrimental effect on the quality of life for residents across Portsmouth.
EXAMPLE Milton and Eastney Allotments: There is a 3 year waiting list for plots, demonstrating their popularity and value to residents. Many retired or unemployed plotholders work on their plot every day, benefitting from fresh air, exercise and social connection, quite apart from the fresh food produced Many working families enjoy time together working on their plots at weekends. Loss of access to these allotments and the destruction of 'structures' for ease of access and works storage for Aquind is a cavalier disregard for the leisure, health and welfare of allotment holders and their families
EXAMPLE: Milton common is an important open space for residents. There are footpaths and cycle paths which many use for commuting as well as leisure, Many local people have no gardens and the ability to spend time in a little patch of natural environment amongst trees, plants and water close to home is what makes crowded city life endurable.
6 There are other possible routes which have less impact on people's lives and these should be preferred and explored properly. The prolonged disruption and loss of amenity to thousands of city residents for whom the project brings no benefits is an unacceptable price to pay for Aquind's profit and convenience

I hope you will seriously consider these points I make. My concerns are shared by local Labour and Lib Dem councillors including the Leader of the Council and importantly our constituency Member of Parliament, [redacted] (Lab Portsmouth South)who agrees with my points and has been putting pressure on Government to think again about this national infrastructure project. [redacted](Cons Portsmouth North) has also added her voice to object to the plans. The proposed route through Portsmouth does not have the support of local residents, councillors or MPs and brings no benefits, only a prolonged and unacceptable level of disruption and loss of access and amenity to the lives of those who live and work in the city.

Yours faithfully
Avril Waters
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