From: [redacted]
To: Aquind Interconnector
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Objection to proposed Aquind Interconnector Infrastructure
Date: 05 October 2020 18:21:33

Ben Jones
[redacted]

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) Lack of clarity, overly complicated/technical and ever-changing plans.

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 poorly managed consultations with the public, including letters to residents asking for home owners details and house prices. There has also been little to no communication to a large proportion of the Portsmouth population, even though any such developments within the city would have a profound impact on their lives and cause disruption with transport links, regardless of distance from proposed site of development.

3) 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.

Example: The plans show that one of these roads (Eastern Road) would have lanes closed to traffic. These works would dramatically reduce the access to the city for a considerable period of time, causing huge delays backing up onto the M27 and A3.

4) Environmental impact on the city.

Example: The plans go directly through green spaces, protected areas and areas with specific wildlife protections. 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.

I use the beach and locks area all along the Langstone Harbour seafront, and myself not other users of the area such as dog walkers, runners, fisherman, and leisure boaters have not been consulted nor questioned regarding whether or not we would welcome such works. The impact on the local wildlife, ecosystems, and habitats in Langstone and the surrounding area would be massive, and in some cases the damage would potentially be irreversible.

The current rhetoric of "job creation and economic revenue" is one I also object to on the strongest terms, as any jobs created would be short term at best, and the fundamental point of any infrastructure improvements such as this is to remove the need for human oversight at large, thus meaning less jobs in the long term than are currently available.

And the economic impact of such a project will be minimal, when taken into the context of the environmental disaster that is ongoing and worsening by the day, and the requirements of our society to find local, sustainable alternatives to the existing infrastructure. Surely the funding for this project should be used to build renewable energy sources in the UK instead?

I hope you will seriously consider these points I make. My concerns are shared by some local councillors and importantly our constituency Member of Parliament, [redacted], who agrees with my points and has been putting pressure on Government to think again about this national infrastructure project.

Thank you for your time,

Signed Ben and Gemma Jones