From: [redacted]
To: Aquind Interconnector; office@portsmouthlibdems.org.uk
Subject: Aquind Energy Project
Date: 05 October 2020 14:44:56

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am writing to object to the proposed plans to build an electricity interconnector through significant areas of Milton and elsewhere. When the proposal was originally explained to local people, the presenter was certainly economical with the truth and the general opinion was that it would have very little effect on us. How wrong that presentation and we were!

During the lockdown especially (but also before and since) an allotment has been a life-saver for my mental health and that of many of other people, both locally and nationally. The exercise I get on an almost daily basis and the fresh vegetables which see me and friends through the summer months are very precious. The idea that allotments are an unnecessary hobby which can be swept away either temporarily or permanently is just plain wrong. One likely outcome would be a hefty bill for the NHS Mental Health Services.

I am aware that Langstone Harbour contains an area of Special Scientific Interest and friends have seen both newts and particular lizards on their allotments. These species could be seriously damaged by the proposed works.

I understand that there may be blockages and heavy traffic on the Eastern Road. Anyone who knows the city is aware that it doesn't take much to stop the traffic on any one of the three routes in and out of the city and this frequently leads to gridlock in the city itself. Portsmouth is an island and this makes access very difficult, highly vulnerable to disruption and can be unpleasant and inconvenient in the extreme.

I skimmed through Aquind's Environmental Statement, Volume 1, Chapter 28: the CUMULATIVE EFFECTS section said: "The resilience assessment looks at the potential impacts of environmental change on the Proposed Development, rather than impacts of the Proposed Development on the environment." Why? Is that because the authors of the document were afraid to list the huge potential damage that might be done to Portsmouth, its roads, its open spaces, its community and its general right to life, to liberty and security and respect for private and family life and home"?

I am also concerned that the named person behind the development has given £1.3 million quite recently to the Conservative Party, according to the Times newspaper. Whereas one might donate a few pounds out of generosity and sympathy with the Party's aims, such a large sum has to have an ulterior motive. I hope that the support of the Conservative Party can't be bought!

I am also concerned that a small majority of people voted for independence from European standards and systems and yet, even before we are fully extricated, we appear to be trying to access services (in this case, power supplies) again!

For all the above reasons, this project MUST be rejected.

Yours faithfully,

Janet Sage