From: [redacted]
To: Aquind Interconnector
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Power cable laying in Eastney allotment area
Date: 03 October 2020 10:02:44

To whom it may concern,

I would like to voice my strong objections to the planned laying of the Aquind electric cable through the Milton allotments, through Eastney and beyond.

1) When Aquind representatives met with the allotment committee previously they apparently reassured them that allotments themselves would not be affected by the horizontal drilling involved. Now it seems they want to reserve the right to remove any structures or trees from certain allotments within quite a wide area of the Milton Piece allotments and part of the Eastney Lake ones. This raises serious issues of trust and undermines any faith we can have that they will stick to current plans and not change at a later date.
2) Even if they do stick to current plans it would appear to entail serious disruption to a large number of plots and affect both parking and access to plots for an even greater number. Allotments provide a very important facility for a lot of local residents and anything that affected the ability to access them could have serious consequences for their mental and physical health. Many, but by no means all are retired and elderly and their allotment represents a key part of their life and a crucial social opportunity. We do not know how long the works are projected to last but serious disruption such as this can have a very long lasting effect upon the development and health of a plot. Any trees removed would take years and years to replace.
3) As a recently retired and relatively recent plotholder, tending the plot and planning for it has become a regular and very valued activity for me personally, especially so currently when many other things are impossible due to Coronavirus. My near neighbours are much younger and more recent plot holders and they have worked tirelessly to revive and reinvigorate their plots and would be heartbroken if they were not able to continue that work and see it all reversed.
3) The plans are not clear and not readily available. Really to see the potential impact we need detailed plans which include plot numbers. I understand the Council will be writing to affected plot holders with more details but as we have already seen, we are right to be wary that current plans could expand and spread to others not currently under threat.
4) As the cable laying progresses up the Eastern Road, I think we can safely assume that there will be much disruption to traffic flow and we know that Portsmouth traffic, with only three main routes onto and off the "island" can be very seriously disrupted by issues with just one of those three. To say nothing of the disruption and worry caused to hundreds of householders along the length of the pipeline.
5) On a wider level, the case for such a cable in principle seems to me to be far from convincing. Why is it we need to import electricity from France, where most is generated using nuclear power? If nuclear power is acceptable why do we not generate more of our own?

In summary, I would urge you most strongly to reject their request to have the right to interfere with plots and at the very least keep to their original promise that allotment plots will not be affected.

Yours
Nick Waters
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