From: [redacted]
To: Aquind Interconnector
Subject: Aquind proposal affecting Milton allotments
Date: 05 October 2020 16:16:38

To whom it may concern,

With regards to the planned Aquind Inter Connector Cable, information has now been brought to light that suggests that the previous promise from Aquind that the Milton Piece and Eastney Lake allotments would be untouched has now been broken.
There is a suggestion that the cable will no longer follow the path in the allotments but will now go through the allotment patches meaning that sheds, trees, wildlife and plant life will be demolished and destroyed to make way for this cable. In addition, the car park, onsite shop and toilets could also be impacted. Is the proposed destruction of people's allotments due to cables going under them or because a giant storage area is needed for the equipment the company will need? I presume that this will be large plant that will have difficulty accessing the site entrance between the houses there. Does that mean the misery for those people of having their houses compulsory purchased and demolished?
A number of the allotment plots have been tendered to and nurtured for decades by the same families and every single allotment holder has taken significant time to establish the plants that they have grown there. Please also bear in mind that the allotment holders grow fresh fruit and veg which they often donate to the community to eat allowing healthy eating and a more varied diet.
Another point is that these allotments are vital towards people's mental health, especially in the times we face with limited contact with family and friends. It is an outlet for many people and is a comforting place to go to and enjoy. If you take that away from people, it will be extremely detrimental towards resident's wellbeing.
I am raising this objection to Aquin's plans on behalf of all the plot holders that will be affected. However on a personal note, I would like to say that I have worked with my daughter on our allotment for about 17 years. The amount of effort, love and money that has gone into developing the allotment into our own personal haven; cannot have a price put on it. I have literally over the years spent several thousand pounds on turning it into what it is today. We have won in Portsmouth in Bloom, the Silver Gilt and Gold Medal for the allotment category. I have planted all types of trees and plants to attract birds and wildlife, including attracting frogs, toads and endangered crested newts to our pond. I spend most of my time there(7-8 hours a day) now that I am retired and understand the therapeutic benefits as well as physical ones of being in such an environment. My family including five grandchildren who live in Portsmouth houses with very small back gardens regularly enjoy the space and freedom down at the allotment. I know several plot holders who live in flats and treat their allotment as their garden and outside space.
It will be a tragedy for so many people if that beautiful nature reserve and haven

has the heart ripped out of it to do nothing more than reduce Aquin's costs and increase their profits.
Other sites along the South coast should be investigated that will have less impact than that on the City of Portsmouth and its residents

I hereby object in the strongest way possible to their proposal and plans for their electricity cable.

Yours faithfully

Maureen Ottesen