From: [redacted]
To: Aquind Interconnector
Subject: Opposition to Aquind Infrastructure Plans for Portsmouth
Date: 04 October 2020 09:54:07

Dear Inspector,

As a local resident, I am shocked and concerned by these plans, and write to object in the strongest possible terms to the Aquind interconnector infrastructure project, due to come to land here in Portsmouth.

Having an allotment in Milton, it has provided me and my family with a pastime and an amazing source of relaxation during lockdown. Having only just been made aware of these plans by my MP, destruction of the allotments and the disruption to the local community from these plans would be devastating to a city that is trying to get back on its feet.

The plan does not appear to provide jobs for Portsmouth residents, and indeed we have been provided with no reason as to why the interconnector lines need to pass through Portsmouth at all when the lines could come from another part of mainland England. Indeed, building these lines through the Eastern Solent would provide disruption to the city and the wider area.

I object to these plans for the following reasons:

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

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. This is unacceptable.

2) Lack of quality engagement with the public.

There have been several poorly managed consultations with the public, including letters to residents asking for home owners details and house prices. However, as a local resident, I have had no correspondence at all. Seeing as these plans will affect my work and leisure time with no direct benefit to me, the least I would expect is some engagement.

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.

The plans show that one of these roads (Eastern Road) would have lanes closed to traffic. The traffic in this road post COVID is worse than ever. 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.

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. This is unforgivable and local residents are extremely annoyed.

I hope you will seriously consider these points I make. The whole project will affect my ability to get to work, where I can walk my dog, my house price, my ability to grow fruit and veg with my young family and my use of the seafront. The environmental impact would be atrocious.

My concerns are shared by many, many local residents, 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: Richard Crawley

[redacted]