

Audio_AQUIND_OFH1_Session2_07122020

Mon, 12/7 12:49PM • 36:41

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

cables, applicant, people, project, councillor, consultation, submission, residents, hear, interconnect, noise, langley, parish, impact, questions, scientific study, allotments, raised, site, effect

00:06

All right.

00:08

Welcome back, everyone. We are now going to resume this open flow hearing. Hopefully you haven't lost anyone in the intermission. Next on my list I would got Mr. David Langley. I there, Mr. Langley?

00:26

I hope so. Yeah, that's me.

00:28

Yes. Coming through loud and clear. Thank you for that. And right, well, welcome to this open floor hearing and prepare yourself and in your own time, and we'd welcome your submission.

00:40

Thank you. Well, before I start, I'd like to place on record, my appreciation of the thorough objections, this aquin project is being subjected to, particularly by the PCC submission. That's Ian McGuire, and then Judy, Judy Clements and fantastic. I'd like to thank you all and show my appreciation. Kimberly, Matt, all of you done a very, very good job. And they've made strong case for refusal. And they're much more expert in their analysis than I am. So this is where I stopped my submission. Two years ago, as a resident of Milton, I attended at Queen's so called consultation, very persuasive evidence was presented, describing the interconnected project a simple routine, bringing long term benefit, causing minor short term disturbance. How trusting we were. We heard that our interest would be covered by the representation of our by our elected council members. And of course, we can trust them because we've elected them. Sadly, they've been marginalised by the decio application. They are really doing a great job though. And at that time that evening, we trusted that Quint. If they were true to their word, would consider the impact of their proposal on us the residents. No mention that evening of taking over have large areas of open space. No mention of the permanent loss of our beachside car park, or part of it. No mention of potential contamination. No mention of gridlock. No mention of the harmful health effects of 2 million watts of electrical energy running through cables just metres from residence front doors. So we'll be right to trust aquin back then. Well, today I feel we've been largely ignored, sidelined, our concerns disregarded. So can we now put our trust in you, the planning inspectors to heed our concerns? May I suggest that some important elements are missing from those 1000s of pages of

documents you've got in front of you today? I said daunting prospect getting through that lot and coming to a fair just decision, for example, what might not be their their traumatic impact of COVID. It's long lasting effects will they be included in your deliberations? And what about the consequences of a no deal or a bad deal of Brexit? How many interconnectors are already in operation or far advance in their planning? Meaning at Queen's is not needed? Should we not commit to UK sustainable energy sources rather than seek to increase supplies from abroad? So who or what will benefit from this interconnector the 1000s of people on each side of the channel along the route? The future customers buying this energy, UK economy, the French? Well, that's what we were told at that consultation consultation or will it be the private limited company behind this project at current? Should we put our trust in such companies perhaps funded from unregulated Overseas Territories? Do they not just serve themselves? Am I wrong to suspect that the benefits will not be shared out why should the community at large and then the final point two years ago, no mention of a telecommunication system in this project? This telecommunication system now necessitating large scale buildings along the route, particularly one at the Cumberland road carpark which will mean we lose a large space which is not Willington said Whittington said is hugely important in the summer, and to us who live quite near all year round. Do we have to accommodate this telecommunication infrastructure? Well, no other interconnect a scheme as needed such a telecommunication system. They've got a simple fibre optic cable doing their business either end don't need O r ss, they don't need these structures. So can we now rely on you please, the examiners of the application to show that we are being heard. Thank you for your hard work. And we leave our trust, the trust we had that evening. We believe that in your hands, this application must be turned down. Thank you.

05:26

Thank you very much, Mr. Langley. And let me reassure you, and indeed everyone who's watching at the event that we as the examiner authority are taken on board, all representations written and oral, they carry the same weight. And we will keep those in mind as we do our deliberations in the future. Thank you for that.

05:46

Thank you.

05:46

I have no specific questions for you. I don't believe my colleagues have either. So thank you for your contribution. And we'll move on. Thank you. Next, I believe we have here your Wi Fi Ola. The Let's stop at CW and Action Group. Not many had many speakers hand over by just moving the laptop from left to right. There we go. No, absolutely. Well, thank you for joining us

06:21

might be able to do this, you know, because we probably wouldn't be in a room where we could share any way different times.

06:28

Well, thank you very much for attending. And in your own time, we'd love to hear your submission, please.

06:35

I'm here today to represent our Facebook group. Let's stop aquent which was set up a few weeks ago, growing in numbers very fast. Many members of the group feel deeply worried about the aquent interconnector project and what it will mean to them personally for the city of Portsmouth and along the route right up to left in we live in challenging times. And with COVID we've come to appreciate even more the few green spaces we have climate change forced us to reevaluate everything in this situation, we need to look at this interconnected cable afresh. The interconnect the cable would be imposed on the most densely populated city outside London with already extremely high pollution levels. And the questions we cannot find an answer to us why why here people counsellors and peace rejected and give you their expertise and why they should not go ahead. I will concentrate on the impact this project is having on the people who live here, breathe the air and would have to live with the consequences should approve will be granted. Firstly, I would like to look at acklins engagement with the public free life. So if that's of deutscher clear and limited as adverse possessor for Steen, you might have been puzzled and wondered what I was saying what it all meant. This is exactly how the people affected by this have told me how they felt a language arcane, unfamiliar, incomprehensible people feel intimidated, threatened and disregarded. Should I continue in German? Or should we find a common language we can all understand? How can people make the right decisions but they have no idea what the issues are. The public consultations were perceived as presentations with no real engagement. During the so called consultation period, only about 150 557 responses were recorded. But surely, you must have noticed that a sudden increase of objections flooded in at the beginning of October this year, when we started our campaign. This tsunami is the result of real engagement. We are consultation. You are the experts using expert consultants. But you fail incrementally in the simple task of engaging with the public. This failure inspired us to put my dots right to let people know what is going on. Once people were alerted and better informed by the grassroots group, a number of important questions have been raised. Why is interconnector project the nationally significant infrastructure project? Why have our local authorities being made powerless? Why would people risk degrading, destroying and disturbing our already threatened environment? Why should people be expected to lose access to green spaces even for a day? And why would be risk to unbalance our already fragile habitats by should residents put up with disturbance and disruption to their local environment? What impact will this project have on air pollution for the residents? By Have there been no studies of the negative effects on this of this project on the mental and physical health of local people? Why are the residents being asked to continue With traffic chaos and noise pollution, by should local businesses face a disruption their fragile economic situation? Why should people have their properties being taken away from them either short or long term by comparatively acquisition. And the list goes on, and on and on and on. mirroring our partners in France. Above all, this is the great unknown, long term effects living alongside HVDC cables. No scientific study exists, which shows these projects are harmless. electromagnetic field emissions are real concern for people living next to the cable. The question remains Why has this route been chosen? Is this because of a data cable? Another sore wound is Milton common. The common is a renowned historical landfill with dangerous and hazardous material. We know of asbestos and mistime. What would happen if this would be unleashed by diggers? Our contact with grandparents and great grandparents forced us to consider events

11:08

from these older people turning continuously as many materials combined and reacted. And that site was being filled. Who now knows what exactly is there? To top it all we have Milton and eastney allotments the examiner Can you imagine the stress and anxiety cost to allotment holders by the ever changing proposals? And now the inclusion of allotment holders in the book of reference raises new questions, doubts and worries. So the examiners What can we expect from you can be expected is causing and will cause in the future, I going to help the people who have to live with the consequences. Our government speaks of climate change rebalancing our environmental values, it is not time to pay lip service, but to act, we the people have come together with our counsellors and in peace to make this threat via to you to show you our concern for our local environment and beg you not to lend money for the few but the health and welfare of us all rule we do not need we do not want and we cannot tolerate this project. Okay.

12:15

Thank you very much, Mrs. Langley very much for that. And of course, we have your transcript as well. So we would be taking that into into account. I realise you had a lot to get through there. But no, thank you very, very much for that. You're welcome, of course to stay on your body here the applicants response to some of those questions later on. I have no questions for you. I don't believe any of my colleagues have at this time. So thank you for your contribution much appreciated.

12:44

Thank you.

12:47

Okay, I now have James very honoured to speak. Are you there, sir?

12:57

Hello, yes, I'm here.

12:59

Excellent. Thank you very much for coming through loud and clear. So in your own time, and as you're ready, we welcome your submission. All right,

13:07

thank you. I actually didn't realise I was speaking until he read the letter last night and my name was on it. So I thought I'd take this opportunity. First, and first thing I'd like just like to say the volume of data on the website, or planning corporate is huge. No, is a full time job. I don't have time to read it all, I have to be very selective on the areas I need to look at. So there is no way I can read that all that information. Port of counsel have dedicated someone to it brilliant, they're acting on our behalf, but someone like me has got no chance of understanding interpreting the all that information. The second thing, but like me, I don't think people realise that basically, these cables are going to be 5% of Britain's Great Britain's electricity consumption going through these cables. And these cables are going to be saying they're going to be within eight metres of my house, who would want that amount of power within eight metres of their house. I don't. And I'm sure a lot of people listening to this today. One that either. The other areas it's going to highlight is what I've submitted before, I'm just going to give a titles because I

believe they're of interest to people there. Because if I can't find stuff, other people can't. So this is a good opportunity to say with errors that affect me and maybe other people. I apologise if I'm getting a bit nervous at the moment, but I'll carry on. The first point which is a major issue to me, but I couldn't have come back is the effect of the cables on spinal cord stimulators and deep brain implants. These devices are affected by magnetic fields. I do understand that Direct currents are a lot less harmful than alternating currents Aqua and have addressed this and their letter is on. I have uploaded their letter so people can read it. The second point is risk of cancer. There has been no studies in the effect of direct current magnetic fields on cancer, I've looked at the Internet, and there's no studies on it. And my and our rooms fall into a magnetic field area. So it's concerned to me the next area very significant is, is reduction in property prices. If someone sees big power, he will 5% of Britain's power eight miles from the house. someone understands that effect. I know I would walk away. If I'd known three years ago aquin we're going to be here doing that kale, I would not have bought this place. I safely say that. The other thing noise in operation from the cable. I know overhead cables bars away to themselves. My wife is a very like light sleeper. If you're gonna be saying wait, she could hear the internet and like

16:18

the second set.

16:21

But second to last thing is I raised concerns about the width of farlington lower part of filings Daddy, where's cables, but as I can see, the footpaths and road is all going to be come up basically all these one side. And the thing I found the other week was looks like we don't lose your neighbour trees down the lower part of forest Avenue. I did highlight that in submission. And something else that occurred to me this morning. Well effects on development. For instance, this property node outlet all bungalows will be redeveloped in the come a big power cable. What effect does that have on the redevelopment? I know next to gas high pressure gas mains, you're not allowed to build within eight metres of it. I don't know. But it's all things consideration. And for everyone else, so thank you for inviting me. I didn't expect to be invited. So thank you.

17:20

That's not a that's not a problem. So fat, thank you very much for your for your contribution and appreciate the nerves but you go for it. And we heard you loud and clear. So thank you very much for that. I have no further questions for you. I don't believe my colleagues have. You're welcome to stay on the line and thank you. Okay. Okay, next up, I have the parish Council of denmead. I believe Councillor Miss Paula Langford Smith and Mr. Kevin. Adrianna Lee will be speaking I don't know which one of you wishes to go first. But are you there? We are.

18:00

We've agreed that I will go first if that's alright with everybody.

18:03

Not a problem. That's a problem. So in which case and in your own time we look forward to hearing your submission.

18:09

Thank you very much. I'd like to echo Mr. Very odd statement regarding the volume of documentation and parish councillors, our volunteers were not employed. And it's been incredibly time consuming, just trying to keep up with this project. And I don't believe that Quinn have made it easy for anybody involved in the project to keep up with the continually changing documentation. And it's incredibly frustrating. And as has already been remarked, whilst the residents of Portsmouth haven't, and East Hampshire will suffer short term disruption whilst the cables the interconnector and the associated non law for fibre optic communication cables are laid the residents of the parish council sorry the new parish will not only enjoy this, but we'll also be faced with the disruption of the erection of the 26 metre tall building. This building will be sited within the parish for the next 40 years or more. The draft development control order lays out how the developer intends to instal the cables and build the enormous interconnected facilities. But there is no consideration whatsoever given to our community which faces this intrusion. We've asked that question on many occasions to consider this. But it would seem that the only Legacy The parish of denmead can look forward to is the interconnect to buildings themselves, along with the loss of significant trees along the route that are over 100 years old. When other significant projects are built, for example, new housing in the village, there is a contribution from the developer to improve facilities in the village. Most recently a contribution towards the building of a multi user sports facility for houses that we've had built in the village. We request that the village the village should receive some benefit from this most intrusive project. There is also notable Employment and skills plan and therefore no opportunity for residents to gain employment or training as a benefit of the interconnector such a huge project in our community. There is no offer of any form of benefits for the parish, no offer of compensation and no acknowledgement from the developer that they will be having any effect on denmead including the loss and the damage to the floor and significant trees and potentially local business closures. We are very concerned that the draft development control order asked for an exemption on noise nuisance legislation with no indication if this noise might be during the development phase or the whole 40 years of the life of the project. during initial consultations between the developer and the parish Council, there was specifically asked if the interconnector would produce a noise sufficient to cause residents nuisance. It was denied that there would be any increase in noise level above that which already exists in the area. Some members of the community complained for the denmead hum which they can hear already emanating from the love, love Dean substation. Are we therefore to expect for the parish The only benefit for off the interconnector is an increase in noise levels with no compensation for this long term significant project. We respectfully request that you do not approve this theme. I'll hand you over to Councillor Andrew Lee.

21:23

Thank you very much. As my colleague has said that denmead parishes will be faced with the 26 metre tall building for the next 40 years or more. The draft decio suggests that far from blending in with the landscape, the applicant is proposing a brighter colour scheme for the buildings, it is surely only sensible to try to mask the edifice with subdued non reflective colours. This site will not only be visible from the immediate locality, but if brightly coloured, it will stand out as an eyesore from the top of the nearby portsmouth Hill. It should be camouflaged with suitable colour and planting schemes. This leads me on to the aspect of flora around the site. The construction of the buildings on the site will result in the loss of trees and hedgerows. And whilst the applicant has suggested that replacement planting will be made, there is no clear definition of how this new planting will be preserved to ensure it is

maintained and not allowed to die nor be removed by a subsequent landowner when the construction is complete. The DD CEO should present clear and binding long term plan for the management of all the trees and hedgerows around the site, particularly those which are meant to help the buildings blend in with the landscape. The dz co also makes no provision no binding provision sorry for the decommissioning the station and its removal at end of life. There should be a binding agreement defining when the station will have reached end of life and a further agreement the head of the site is to be cleared and the land returned to open down land if not agricultural use. Provisions should also be made to show the planting major in the construction phase, which will have matured for 40 years is not lost during decommissioning and removal. Thank you.

23:14

Thank you very much both of your mouth finished within the time. And just have a one one question you mentioned there the the so called the denmead hum. In terms of the the noise from the existing substation. How does that occur? Is it only on certain days and certain wind directions? Or is it a constant? Could you just describe your experience of that a little bit more to us please?

23:43

As my understanding Kevin correct me if I'm wrong, it's my understanding that people feel it.

23:51

Yes, someone who has no experience of it, I can only go by friends who've reported and they describe it as a a mains maze hurt of hum, which some here and some feel. But having no experience of it myself, I can't really go any further. But certainly there are some significant number of people who hear it or feel it

24:23

and say it's not just one or two people, there's a lot of people that feel and hear it.

24:29

And is that just within a certain proximity to the to the substation, or is that not saying sort of road names as such, but is there a definable limit where people don't feel it as such?

24:43

Kevin, um,

24:44

uh, well, certainly, I know, but at least two people who lived more or less in the exact centre of the village, as opposed to the parish who have complained of it over the years. So that's probably two or three Three miles from the actual site at least. Yeah, this is it's awkward trying to explain it, but you don't hear it myself.

25:12

Okay, well, thank you very much. Both of you. Thank you for your contribution. I have no more questions there. And I've been just on other attendees have just been informed that Councillor Clemmensen just wishes to address that point. Is that correct? Councillor Clemmensen?

25:33

Yes, thank you. I can just confirm that. My husband is always complaining about the noise. We weren't quite sure where it was coming from or what it was, but there is definitely it's a low drumming buzzing just sound which is it's just constantly there. And he is often complaining about it and saying, can't you hear that noise? Can't you hear that noise? And that is that the denmead hum. Now whether it is to do with that particular substation i'd i can't confirm but certainly we hear it and that's the other side of the village.

26:18

Okay. Thank you very much for clarifying that. And thank you, Councillor Langford Smith and Councillor and God for your contributions much appreciated.

26:27

Thank you.

26:31

Just to get in touch with the case team. Very quickly. Has counsel Luke Stubbs been able to join us at all, like Mr. Wallace have in John's case manager at No, we've not got Councillor Stubbs in attendance. Okay. If Mr. Stubbs is watching, or if he gets in contact, please direct him to the this evening's open floor hearing, which of course starts at half past six.

27:02

Just before we move on to the applicant have also been made aware that Mr. Black, a wish to address what we've just heard. Mr. McGuire's is that the case? not hearing anything, so I'll

27:25

move on. Apologies. I was simply going to say that we've been unable to get hold of Councillor Stubbs ourselves, and asked if he could come to this evening session if we can get hold of him. And you answered that question.

27:37

Thank you. Thanks. Sorry about that. Thank you very much. Thanks for clarifying. Hopefully he can, he can join us. Okay, then that completes the list of speakers who are here today to speak. That basis, I would like to hand over to Mr. Bird. Oh, don't say one second one second, Mr. Bird. Understand that Mrs. Langley wishes to address that point that was last made. Mrs. Langley, what would you like to say?

28:10

Yeah, just to come back to the noise vibrations or to any vibrations. People feel. This is where we need scientific studies, which show us that these magnetic fields whether in one way or another vibration, or

certain feelings, sensitivities, certain people feel more clearly than other people. And obviously, in the case of denmead, there seem to be a significant number of people. And I think perhaps if the examining authorities can have a look, whether there is any scientific study, which I was referring earlier on to, we had consultation with our friends in France, and they say they've asked aquent to to provide a scientific study, that this is not interfering, and it couldn't be given because there is no scientific study, but if you do look on the internet, it shows quite clearly clearly that there is an effect these huge magnetic fields course and that has to be investigated. Very, very important and it is not just noise, it is as I say vibrations, it is sensitivities, because if we look at scientific evidence, that that will have an influence on some people more than others.

29:26

Okay. Thank you very much. Thank you for, for clarifying that, sir. That and without further ado, then it's appropriate that we hear from the applicant. So, Mr. Bird,

29:40

thank you. On behalf of the applicant, can I thank all those persons who've made submissions this morning, whether as an individual or representing other organisations or bodies, the presentations have been measured clear and set a good start to the examination, demonstrating the importance of participation in terms of the topics Raise, they are wide ranging from the strategic to site specific. And I couldn't do justice to all of the points raised in the time which you would allow me. And it'll come as no surprise to serve that the applicant will respond in writing at the appropriate time to the generality of the points raised. I do have a wish just to pick up on seven discrete issues, because they were a number of them Rickard during this morning session, if I may just deal with those. The first, counsellor winnington raised the issue of the horizontal directional drilling at easterly beach, I can confirm on behalf of the applicant that there will be no drilling from the beach. Secondly, in relation to consultation with the approach, the consultation was agreed with each of the relevant authorities, including in particular Portsmouth City Council, and accordance with the agreed approach the applicant undertook to extensive public consultations, first the non statutory consultation in early 2018, followed by the subsequent 2019 statutory consultation. And as you know, following the feedback, many of the more sensitive locations along the cable corridor river reduced or removed altogether. And the comprehensive consultation report is in the examination library app oh two, five which details the extensive consultation which was undertaken. And in particular, I'd like to stress that the applicant took great care to ensure that its proposals were clearly explained, and that the consultation enabled hard to reach groups to engage with it. The third issue I need to touch on is the issue of the allotments. So the applicants proposal has always been that the onshore table cargo would be installed under the allotments through the use of horizontal directional drilling so as to avoid any surface impact. And that would be secured by the decio. And all that the applicant seeks his rights for pedestrian access over some existing paths and internal roads for monitoring and limited cleanup during the HDD process. There would be no restriction on access for lot fundholders or removal or destruction of their plots or structures. And to ensure that that is absolutely clear, the applicant has made amendments to the land plans book of reference and works plans at deadline by turning them to the issue of electromagnetic fields. The potential effects have been assessed. And so the library References The onshore electric and magnetic field report which is ap 368 and Public Health England are satisfied with the methodology and the conclusions reached by that assessment. There will be no electric field along the onshore cable

route due to the earth shielding of the cables and the magnetic field strength will be well below relevant guidelines. I should also just on this issue mentioned that the laying of circuits at different times is not for any electromagnetic field related issue. It relates to traffic management only. The fifth point relates to the lifeboat station raised by Councillor Whittington and Kimberly Barrett. So that has been given careful consideration by the applicant and the implications to ensure that access is available at all times. And that's addressed in the framework traffic management strategy which is documents six dot three dot 22 dot one, a

33:52

six point relates to Langstone harbour. Again, this is just to confirm in response to Kimberly Barrett's submissions that the direct impact had been avoided through the use of horizontal directional drilling. There is not the intention of the cable corridor would run through the harbour it is getting under the harbour and there will be no perceptible effect above the brown background effects already associated with existing use of the harbour. And the seventh and final point relates to the phases and spaces within the city. The applicant has in the scheme design sought to avoid green spaces and recreational facilities wherever possible. And it's made use of horizontal directional drilling where it can to avoid such impacts. In particular, Milton locks nature reserve, the lock fence and also at easterly beach where possible it's also sought to avoid the playing surfaces where open space needs to be crossed. It recognises that there will be some impacts and these are assessed in the environmental statement. with appropriate mitigation proposed, and that includes the framework management plan for recreational impact, which we continue to discuss with Portsmouth City Council, and indeed others to further reduce the identified residual impacts. So that's all I have to say on behalf of the applicant.

35:20

Thank you very much. Mr. Burdon, thank you for the applicant for providing those responses. That therefore completes the list of speakers and also the the responses. I would encourage everyone to make their written submissions by deadline six, which is the 23rd of October. I will now move on to agenda item five of today's agenda. As I've just said, the next formal deadline is the 23rd of October 2020. If you've had a speech or any responses, the dissenting voice is thank you very much for the correction as 23rd of December 2020. Those of you who have spoken today should ensure that any written summaries of your submissions, reach the examiner 40 by that date. Thank you, everybody, for your contributions to this hearing that there is an open floor hearing tonight. And no doubt. Some of you may be watching that on the live stream. But thank you very much. This open floor hearing is now closed. Thank you