

Audio_AQUIND_OFH2_Session1_07122020

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

portsmouth, land, examination, site, applicant, traffic, hearing, allotment, area, hear, deadline, representations, access, proposed, question, cable, air quality, impact, submission, includes

00:06

Well, good evening, everybody. And welcome to this open floor hearing, which is part of the examination of the application for the Aqua and interconnector nationally significant infrastructure project.

00:19

Before we introduce ourselves, I'm going to run through some preliminary matters.

00:24

And I check with the case manager that I'm being heard and that the recording has started.

00:31

Yes, Evan Jones case manager here in London. Yeah. And the recording is underway. Thank you.

00:38

Thank you very much.

00:41

Please, could all participants ensure that they are unmuted unless they're invited to speak? And could you please silence or turn off any mobile phones that are not being used to access this hearing?

00:52

We would also ask you to keep your camera's switched off while you're not speaking.

00:58

This hearings taking place virtually online on the Microsoft team's platform. But the format content and the procedure will be very similar to traditional face to face open floor hearings that have been held for previous decio examinations.

01:14

So two introductions. I am Andrew Marr and I was appointed on the 12th of February 2020. Under Section 65 of the Planning Act 2008. Under delegation from the secretary of state as the lead member of a panel to examine this application.

01:32

I have a background in ecology and environmental impact assessment. And I'm a chartered environmentalist and a chartered landscape architect.

01:42

My fellow panel members were appointed on the same date. And I'll ask them to introduce themselves starting with Mr. Wallace.

01:50

Good evening, everyone. My name is David Wallace. I am a chartered member of the world Town Planning Institute, and I've academic qualifications in environmental planning. I'll now hand over to Mr. Roscoe.

02:03

Good evening. I'm Steven Roscoe. I'm a chartered civil engineer and have a background in engineering and development.

02:12

Thank you both. And can I also mention our planning Inspectorate colleagues who are working with us on this examination? He may have spoken to some of them already having Jones as the case manager leading the planning Inspectorate case team with this application. And here's a company this evening by two case offices, Lilly Robbins and Steven Parker.

02:33

We are examining an application for an order for development consent for the aquent interconnector, which is a nationally significant infrastructure project. The application has been made by aquin limited, who we will refer to as the applicant.

02:48

You will find information about the application and the documents produced for this examination on the planning inspectorates national infrastructure website.

02:57

This has a landing page for the project and further pages that set out examination procedure, the examination, timetable and examination documents.

03:08

Our rule eight letter of Tuesday the 15th of September 2020, includes that web address.

03:16

The hearings been held in Microsoft Teams, the participants should not use the chat function as it's not in operation this evening.

03:24

Should you wish to make an urgent comment you can use a hands up function or Please be advised there may be a delay before we see this. And please wait to be invited to speak.

03:34

Telephone participants should clearly state their name if they wish to make an urgent comment. But again, please wait to be invited before making your contribution.

03:44

Please speak loudly and clearly when you are making submissions, especially those on the telephone.

03:51

The applicant has also arranged for the hearing to be live streamed on the website of production 78. For those of you watching the live stream, please be aware that the chat function on the production 78 webpage is not in use either.

04:06

If you participate in this hearing, it is important that you understand that you will be recorded and live streamed and that the digital recording with subtitles will be published on the project page of the national infrastructure website that I referred to earlier.

04:21

The planning Inspectorate retains recordings for a period of five years from the Secretary of State's decision on the development consent order.

04:29

Because the digital recording is retained and published. It forms a public record that can contain your personal information, and Twitch the general data protection regulation applies.

04:41

To avoid the need to edit these digital recordings, we ask you to try your best not to add information that you wish to be kept private and confidential, such as addresses details of your home, personal financial matters or medical conditions to the public record.

04:58

And please do not make an attribute

05:00

references to any other person's situation information or opinions.

05:06

If you or we considered there is no alternative to the disclosure of such information, we will agree a process with you to enable it to be made available without informing part of the public record. The

normal way to do this will be to ask you to make general oral submissions, but to include any private and confidential information that you need to support it in a written document.

05:30

Whilst the written document will also be published, it can be redacted before publication.

05:37

So let me move on to agenda item two, which are the arrangements for the open floor hearing this evening.

05:45

This is the second of two open floor hearings today. The first was held earlier in the day.

05:51

Our examination timetable includes provision for further open floor hearings in the weeks commencing 14th December 2020, and also the eighth and 15th of February 2021, if they are required, but these would be for any new speakers only, as each interested party is restricted to one open floor hearing slot.

06:14

And open floor hearing provides an opportunity for interested parties to make submissions to the examination and also for the examining authority to ask any questions should they arise.

06:27

We have read all of the relevant and written representations that have been made. This hearing provides interested persons with the opportunity to emphasise and explain key points, and to provide factual information to help us fully understand their concerns.

06:45

speakers will have the opportunity to provide us with a written summary of their oral submission, together with any supporting evidence or references to documents that they quote, by deadlines six on the examination timetable, which is Wednesday the 23rd of December 2020.

07:04

In terms of the procedure for this hearing, we will hear in turn from each party who has told us in advance that they wish to speak

07:13

in order to make best use of hearing time and to ensure fairness, each speaker will be given a maximum of five minutes speaking time. This is common practice in national infrastructure examinations.

07:26

A warning will be provided for each speaker 30 seconds before the end of that allocated five minutes. This warning takes the form of an alarm, which I'll demonstrate now.

07:44

I hope you could hear that. And the second alarm will signal the conclusion of the five minutes.

07:51

We do have the discretion to extend the time if we believe that there will be clear benefits to the examination. But nobody should rely on this. So please ensure that you complete your submission within your five minutes slot. We may then ask you some questions based on what you have presented to us.

08:09

I should also point out that if you bring up matters that are not relevant to the examination, we may interject to explain this and to ask you to move on to your next point.

08:19

applicant will be invited to respond to the points made in the representations either after each one before we close the hearing, or in writing by deadline six. And can ask Is Mr. Bird representing the applicant again at this hearing this evening?

08:39

I am sir. Good evening. Good evening. Again, thank you very much.

08:46

For those of you who haven't attended proceedings such as these before, there is necessarily necessary formality. And I would ask you to refrain from interruptions is most unhelpful to us potentially disruptive to those who are speaking and could in some circumstances, lead to an award of costs against the person responsible.

09:07

I will now hand over to Mr. Wallace, who will take us through the remaining items on this agenda. Thank you.

09:14

Thank you very much. Moving on to agenda item free then a confirmation of those who have whoops wish to be heard at this open floor hearing. I have a list of those. And we intend to hear from you in the following order. We'll hear from Penny mordant MP, followed by counsel Steve Weems will then hear from Henry Bryce on behalf of Jeffrey carpenter, followed by Peter Carpenter will then hear from Michael Jefferies followed by Robin Jeffery's will then hear from Viola Langley who is speaking on behalf of Claire Wilcox, who unfortunately cannot be with us this evening. will then hear from Trevor Stark on behalf of the eastney and Milton allotment holders as well.

10:01

Find out with Paula savage and then cancel Luke Stubbs.

10:07

I will say that during during that list that we will shedule into a break depending on how the timing goes. That will be a 1015 minute break, and we'll see when we can schedule that in for comfort purposes. Once you have finished giving your presentation to the examiner 40, you're welcome to stay on the line and watch the remainder of proceedings that you're under no obligation to do so.

10:32

So without further ado, let's move on to agenda item four. And here for the interested parties. Starting with Penny Morden MP place.

10:46

Good evening, everyone. I hope that you can hear me and potentially see me, I don't know whether the video camera is working for you. Can I just confirm you can hear me? Yes, can hear you and see you. Sir. thank thank you very much. And thank you for the opportunity. Just to make a brief representation. I must just state that although I'm a government minister, I'm speaking in my capacity as a member of parliament for Portsmouth north. And I'm keen to get on record the very large number of concerns raised by my residents. I became aware of the the project back in 2018. And at the time, there was great concern, in part due to the nature of the land interest questionnaire that had been put out, which had, unfortunately given the impression to very large numbers of people in the city that they may have their homes compulsorily purchased. More recently, there have been issues around the concerns about allotments being built over or having access and disrupting allotments. And although both of those issues are no longer live issues, what they have done is create an atmosphere of deep concern and mistrust. That what people think is going to come to pass, may not. And I would just ask people to bear that in mind for future communications. But also when this is being assessed, turning to matters, which are an issue in our lives. As I say I've had an enormous number of representations from my constituents. They cover a broad range of issues, including some touching on health issues, but largely they fall into two categories. Firstly, environmental and ecological. And this is a huge concern to my constituents, we have been incredibly active in all sorts of issues concerned with the harbour in particular, the seabed, the health of the seabed, species, water quality, many other related issues. And there's a huge amount of concern about this development on that. And then secondly, although I note the new proposed routes, still outstanding issues around traffic disruption, particularly from zetland Park onwards. And this is, I think, a grave concern to both my constituents, but also surrounding areas. What I would say is that whatever the merits of this project in terms of national infrastructure, if you were going to pick a point on the south coast, to provide that connection, it would not be Portsmouth. We are the most densely populated city in Europe outside of London. We have incredible stresses on our transport network. We have vital concurrent

13:49

development going on during the course of this project. And I can't emphasise enough how strongly my constituents object to this taking place. And I would hope that the concerns of Portsmouth city council and other local authorities are taken on board, although noting the process that we are locked into. So thank you for the opportunity to get that on the record.

14:17

Thank you very much. Thank you for your contribution and much appreciated for being here. If just one moment, I'll have no questions for you myself. But I just like to invite the applicant Mr. Bird at this time if there's anything you wish to comment on now or whether you're intending to do a summary at the end of the open floor hearing, Mr. Bird

14:40

there if I may, I'll wait until the end of the open floor hearing.

14:44

Thank you very much, Mr. Bird and thank you, Penny Morden for your appeal contribution this evening. It's much appreciated.

14:56

Okay, I will move on then. Now to council

15:00

Steve Weems Are you there? Sir?

15:05

I am indeed.

15:07

Before I start May I ask if you're hearing me properly because I've got a 32nd time delay on I'm hearing people repeat themselves 30 seconds later. So others are hearing that as well. It is slightly staggered your your speech there but it is coming through we are hearing you is just a little bit slower than the normal but we'll see how we get on and if we miss hear anything, we'll come back to you and ask on that. So.

15:36

So in your own time, and we'd be willing to hear your submission. Thank you.

15:42

My name is Steve, we

15:45

have

15:47

over 30 years

15:49

since

15:50

I mentioned

15:53

us

15:55

parking system raise

16:00

the object

16:02

of the

16:05

water with the proposed connect with us award who's gonna be serious? Sorry, counsellor Williams. If I can just interject, the sound is is poor. I wonder if it actually is best if you were to turn your video off. So keep the audio on but just turn the video that would see if that improves sound. Okay, try it. I hear not but I'll try that.

16:31

Has that. That sounds a little bit better. Yes. And please continue. Okay. CRM is access mainland by just three roads. There are already frequent queues of traffic backing up lately in the main trunk

16:47

and airport issues that are detrimental to human

16:52

life. According to the Office of National Statistics portunities

16:58

nine upper local authorities 445.

17:05

For road traffic,

17:07

experienced experience when they're having these arterial routes every five feet proposing only exacerbate those problems like aquin failed to adequately address traffic cues maybe an inconvenient life, but adding such a become

17:27

either worsening air quality or dangerous traffic is not.

17:33

It may not be a trunk model traffic flows along Farmington Avenue connection with the big 277 as well. I know this is how you use many same things. And Ruth matapos so

17:53

No, that doesn't seem to be any consideration the dangers posed to

17:58

take root of these underneath Exide one school and within 15 minutes of another 150 metres of school

18:09

with people from

18:12

the environmentally sensitive sites affected by these would have been highlighted by others and I'm not pulling on it. It's not

18:22

that I'm like loads of them. However, I do wish to highlight the impact and

18:28

the consequences of that

18:32

it is not clear treats will felt like action proposals but as there are 1000

18:39

compared to

18:43

a comparable population, the loss of the signal tree would be unwell especially considering the potentially 11 million per years which would be too

18:55

poor Portsmouth in densely populated London and as only 700 effectors accessible open space even 189 Heck, even then

19:08

is is the Centre for Sand Hill and Ponton marshes not suitable or available like

19:17

if those sites are excluded there is 3.65 vectors open 1,003.3 head the fangs

19:28

big

19:31

is what you is very poor compared to the 4.51 is the reason people

19:37

win 6000 cities parable population

19:43

there are 25

19:46

squares which are visible and should this progression best we are 20%

19:53

for at least one season something

19:58

and the worst it is

20:00

33%

20:03

the prospect go on the last one equals however, as Sunday I know that once a team is enabled for a short period, the birdies that will not make the team again, certainly they forfeit their place in their leaks because of being unable to fulfil, fulfil

20:24

the conference many individuals who participate in sport to the long term detriment of health Finally, there is precedent for future

20:37

maintenance notes for the Secretary of State pulled in a plan by Portsmouth football club

20:48

for refusal, adverse nature conservation, this was

20:54

protected bird winter on bank they also some of the other sides can pose using another reason was inadequate pictures summary so demonstrate

21:09

nothing conflicts in Temporary

21:13

Protection potential

21:16

residence, I urge you to recommend these groups be worth it.

21:21

Thank you.

21:23

Thank you very much counsellor Weems. And just to let you know, we probably only caught around about 70 to 75% of that clearly. We do, however, have your transcripts on on record, which I believe is in our exam library. Rep five hyphen 134. So be assured that we have taken that into account and I would ask the applicant when responding at deadline six to refer to that, rather than the audio recording perhaps for for confirmation of all that you said. I just wonder if there's one thing that you could do for me, and that is by deadline six. If you mentioned the 1994

22:09

refusal that Portsmouth football club had achieved on farlington playing fields, just if you could at deadline six provide a bit more detail on that in writing for us.

22:21

I

22:23

think

22:24

that's it again,

22:27

a little Thank you. Okay, thank you very much for your time. That's much appreciated.

22:35

Okay, all

22:37

right. Moving on. Now, if I could have Mr. Henry Bryce, on behalf of Jeffrey carpenter, please.

22:47

Good evening. Can you save me? Yes, indeed, coming through loud and clear.

22:53

So this is on behalf of Jeffrey carpenter who is in the room. And his words, is with them the farm which my grandfather bought in 1939 has been my home and workplace all of my life, on every age and every failed. Farming is unlike most ways of life. It is not just nine to five, five days a week job, which is 24 seven. You don't walk away on a Friday for two days off with a livestock to look after each and every day of the year means no holidays. They need to be fed even on Christmas Day. Live and bring that is part of your makeup. I worked alongside my father here, as did his assets deal with his father. I was raised to farm and raise my own two children here. It is all we have ever known. Since having a massive stroke five years ago, I have had to unwittingly take early retirement. This has changed my life completely. but has since been able to enjoy my time. Appreciate the wildlife that we have surrounded that we are surrounded by here. It has helped my recovery. We watch the barn owls deers, buzzard, woodpeckers, patches, pheasant, rabbits and foxes along with a large variety of other birds. The peace and quiet here has and still is

24:13

at large way my recovery. My grandchildren are now in third the countryside and the safe walking around the family safely walking the family dogs around the farm.

24:25

This proposal will rip out the heart of a small family owned farm which cannot be replaced. I never envisaged it would not be asked enjoy the generations to come. The stress and strain this is causing on our family. Not to mention the financial toll it is taking is immense. This will damage farm is not an area of land on the map. It is our home. The noise, dust and disturbance and permanent loss and damage of our own land along with the earthly Platon landscape is something that we're going to have to endure every day.

25:03

Thank you very much, Mr. Bryson. Just before we move on, I just like to mention that there's a bit of personal information given in that speech, and are just needed in relation to the general data protection regulations, your consent to that remaining on record. Otherwise, we'll need to redact the recording if I could just get your clarity on that place.

25:30

Yeah, happy to do that. Excellent. Thank you. Thank you very much. And I believe one of my colleagues will have a question for the carpenters that would hear from Mr. Peter Carpenter first place.

25:48

more firmly of

25:50

this was to be defeated.

25:53

But it appears to be taken away from me. If this system goes ahead, my future as a farmer no longer stands that would be financially impossible to carry on due to lack of land remaining on the farm, causing extreme weather and stress. Farming is not just a job as a wildlife is me. If we continue, it will be impossible to support my family. The constant stress that awkward have put me under means that I have been unable to face capital due to constant stress of loss of land. And at my age, employment will be unlikely when all I know Simon, I need to support my family. This has put my life on hold. We are a livestock farm currently have approximately 250 sheep grazing,

26:46

which I have had to bring in due to accurate claiming that we are not a livestock farm I have on I live live on the farm with my family in a static caravan only 30 metres away from the site boundary. With an open view towards a convective station taking away all privacy and views across the farm. My grandchildren have always had the safety of the farm to ride this ties and bikes on the scheme will take away places to ride and grace. It will take away years of memories everything to be lost. This is putting my life on hold. Our lives are being put under threat. What will happen to us. This has been causing my family and I extreme stress. It's impacting my health, causing us sleepless nights. This is unfair. Why should we have to fight for our family home, we've lived if a family's lived here for over 80 years awkward have not consulted us truthfully, or fairly. I hope to keep the farming and build a home for my family, this will be impossible if the land is taken. I thought I would spend the whole of my life on the farm I would work my day out and be rested on the farm with my father's ashes.

28:11

We always work together. So we should be allowed to rest together. Not only this, but that's a noise distraction and the health of my family and lifestyle.

28:28

My family have worked 80 years

28:31

for all of my heritage, hard work and love to describe the life in an instant. My life is on hold.

28:43

Thank you.

28:45

Thank you very much, Mr. Carpenter. And thank you to both for appearing before us tonight. Appreciate the time that you're going through, I believe my colleague, Mr. Roscoe may have a question for you.

28:58

Mr. Carpenter, thank you for the submission that you've just made. As an examining authority, we're thinking at the moment about the possibility of site visits. And in that regard and accompanied site visits that we would take just as a panel just as ourselves.

29:15

The question is really in terms of land that both you and Mr. Jeffrey Carpenter own, would we be able to have access to that land to undertake an accompanied site inspection on our own, we don't need a response. Now. We're happy for you to discuss it between yourselves and with your advisors. And if a response could be provided a deadline six which is the next deadline. Now such a visit would be carried out by up to four of us. We'd like to have information for instance, where we could park how much notice would be required by yourselves, how to access the particular areas would we

30:00

Would we need to be Latin? Or could areas be left unlocked? Now, there's no need to get back to us immediately on this. But it's just for deadline six so that we can think about the possibility of a site inspection of your land. I do have further questions. But yeah, I understand that you're going to be represented at the compulsory acquisition hearing. And those questions are probably best for them. So was there anything at the moment that you wish to say in response to what I've just said?

30:35

No, we will respond in due course, on the points you've raised. That's great. Thank you very much. Thank you very much.

30:45

Indeed, thank you very much for your time and much appreciated on that.

30:51

Next on the list, I have Mr. Michael Jeffries, please.

31:05

We moved into our family home in Hillcrest in 1987. We are a family of five, increase on enjoy the outdoors have grown up and worked here at Hillcrest.

31:19

We have run our family business from the workshops within the property, and our granddaughter lives within the mobile home. This property is the centre of our family life. It is our dream house, which we had worked hard to avoid, to afford to avoid it. It had land to the rear and the side of the property or deal for outdoor activities. They work in the yard area with existing workshops and large rear garden, which we later had a school. In addition, it has an elevated position, overlooking this half downs on a very quiet country line that wants to be a house for life, our forever family on

32:09

my appeal, oh boy, Hillcrest was location, the land with it and the outstanding views from the rear of the house as far reaching into the sea and the settlement on a clear day. It was our intention to retire here. And when the time comes to be passed on to our children and kept in the family for their benefit. We have enjoyed living in our property up until now and benefiting from the use of our land for 33 years, the proposal of the convective station would have a negative impact on our principal views.

32:53

And from the veranda and the two balconies to the rear of our property, which we look out onto every day. We feel very strongly that accurate proposal proposed plans are totally appropriate for the country short and should be nowhere near a residential settings as our home and it's cartilage.

33:17

Accurate intention to build such a huge building of an industrial nature would cause not only a negative visual and noise impact on us, but the building operation of it would go on for years and the running of it would have many environmental issues of arising in a rule setting. This would affect a continued disturbance on us and our fellow labourers. This would ultimately lead to stress and destroy our peace and quiet. The strict stress on us already imposed from this whole planning process has been dreadful. My wife and I are 74 years old, not in quite health are supposed to be enjoying our retirement.

34:07

would also like to point out that if we wish to move to avoid such disturbance and negative impact on our views, we would struggle to find a housewife hours ago.

34:21

We live in a very desirable part of the South of England, his house and land policies well above the national average. It is extremely rare to purchase a property of our toy with all the permissions already in place within the curtilage of the residential dwelling

34:40

occurs on a residential

34:43

level. Even if we decide to move now, before any work took place, when the future the market value of our house has now been sufficiently too crushed because of your proposals. aquin has failed to listen to us their communication with

35:00

being terrible. We hope that the proposed proposal is rejected by the Secretary of State.

35:09

Thank you very much, Mr. Jeffries. Just two points. First of all,

35:16

you had mentioned under the general data protection regulations, you've obviously given some personal information there. Are you happy for that to remain in the public domain or otherwise, we'll need to redact the the video of this if you could clarify place.

35:39

Are you happy to have

35:41

your information said yes.

35:46

Okay. I'll take that as your consent. Thank you very much. And I see my colleague, Mr. Roscoe, have a question for you. He'll ask is, and then I'll ask mine. Mr. Roscoe.

35:58

Mr. Jeffries, you referred in the representations that you've already put in the examination to a motocross track. And you actually showed an aerial view of that in in an appendix. Can I just ask, Is there any mounting included within that motocross track because when we did the one of our and accompanied site visits, which was down Old Mill lane, we couldn't actually look through and see it at all. So is there any mounting on that track? Or is it all generally the level of the surrounding area?

36:34

Yes, yes. There is mounting. Yes, right. Right. Okay, thank you.

36:41

Another thing that you refer to in your representations is the two businesses that operate from your land. They are the motocross site, that we the circuit that we've just talked about, and also a vehicle repair area that needs vehicle storage, that also was identified on the information that you put into the examination. Are those the Are those the only businesses to which you refer? In terms of your representations? Are those the only businesses on the land that you're talking about? their businesses on the land? The nurture course and the workshops? Yes. Thank you. Thank you. And then finally, then, you may well be aware of the question that I asked Mr. Carpenter in terms of the fact that as an examining authority, at the moment, we're thinking about the possibility of site visits, site inspections, and in particular, an accompanied site inspections from the current circumstances. So the question to you is whether you would be prepared to allow such an unaccompanied inspection by ourselves, that would be to give us access to your land, which is the subject of the examination. And that land where you are the owner of that land, both you and Sandra Carpenter are the audio net, so it's Sunday, Jeffrey's are the owner of the land, you don't need to respond to that. Now, we would like if possible, a responsible, we would like a response by deadlines, six, what I'll just do, then I'll just run through the items that I mentioned previously, just for completeness. So basically, it's access to land where you are the owner of that land, there will be up to four of us. We'd like to know if you give your consent, where we could park and which plots we'd be able to go on, and how much notice you would require for that. And finally, then how we would go about accessing accessing the land, whether you would need to be there to let us in, or whether we could be allowed through unlocked gates or whatever. So just to repeat them. We don't need a response now. But deadline six would be the time to respond to that. Having heard what I've just said, Is there anything that you'd like to reply on at the moment or not?

39:06

Oh, no, I can see you shaking your head, and that's absolutely fine. Right. Okay. Thank you very much for the responses that you've given me.

39:15

Excellent. Yes, indeed. Thank you very much. And Mr. Roscoe asked my question in the passing there. So no further questions for me on that. Thank you for your time.

39:25

I have Mr. Robin Jeffries to speak next. I will just ask for Mr. Jeffries. And indeed all the other speakers on the remainder of the agenda, that if you are giving personal information, if you know, even refrain from doing so please give your consent to that being included in the recording. Thank you, Mr. Jeffries, and prepare yourself and us as and when Please give us your submission.

40:00

From 19 to 2010 years ago, I lived there my Shabbat companion is purchased it because it was close to our parents and it was a good, it was in a good location in the countryside.

40:13

It was my intention to build my own house there. And there still is rent mostly

40:21

two to two people who live in mobile homes, and part of the yard toy builder,

40:27

and stables and the film's to a woman who runs as an equestrian yell,

40:33

we strongly object to a very large industrial building, right in the view of where I intend to build my house and to lose two acres of land. Because of this project. The person who rents The question was very annoyed about losing her glazing and the settling or losing part of the land, she will most probably have to find somewhere else less

40:57

as as what parents have stated at Clinton case for build such a huge building of an industrial nature, which will cause a negative and visible impact on us. But the building operation would go on for years, and the running of it would have many governmental issues operating in a setting that has had very little contact with me in regards to losing partner land and visual impact on me. So therefore, I hope that the Secretary of State motwane

41:37

Thank you very much, Mr. Jeffries, my colleague, Mr. Roscoe has some questions for you,

41:43

Mr. Jeffries, it was a question again, relating to the occupiers of the land that you own.

41:53

There were various occupiers mentioned in the information that you put into the examination so far. They were mobile homes, builder and scaffolders yard. And also the

42:09

the equestrian use on the land, just relating initially to the mobile homes and the builders and scaffolding yard. You say that they could be threatened by the proposals. I'm aware from what you've put in of the location of those areas. Is there anything that you could do that you can give me on how you think they could be threatened by the aquin? proposals?

42:44

light that doesn't, they're just in the noise. Right. Okay. That's, that's great. I've made a note of of those. Thank you.

42:53

There's also you also mentioned your intention to build a house on the land. Do you have a particular location in mind for that?

43:03

on the land?

43:05

Yes, yes. Right. And does that does that location have any any consensus in place? Any, any planning permission? Any other consensus? No. Right. Right. Okay. So it's an intention, exactly as, as you said, right. Thank you. Thank you. There's also thinking about your land now, to the south of your land, there's quite a large field through which the electricity overhead cables pass. And on the book of reference, the existence of some rights is actually mentioned in that. I just wanted to ask at the present time, do you have any use of that large field? Or not?

43:48

No, no, right. Okay. Okay. Thank you. I mean, these these are all really just to clarify things that you've actually said in the, in the written word. And when I've read through, obviously, questions occur in my mind, and you're, and you're answering them now. Thank you. And then the final point, then related to

44:06

us thinking about unaccompanied site inspections again, and it's basically the same question that I've given before.

44:15

Would you prepare, be prepared to give the examining authority, access to the land that you own to undertake an accompanied site, site inspection? That's just us on our own? Basically, again, there isn't any any need to answer now you can think about that and speak to others if you if you wish. But if we could have a response by the next deadline, which is deadline six, and again, that access would be for up to four of us. If your consent is given, we'd like to know where we could park. We'd like to know which plots we'd be given access to. We'd like to know how much notice you would require and also

how to access would you need to be there to unlock gates, or could certain areas be left open for us to access

45:00

But again, it's not a response. Now, it's a response that deadline six. Don't know if, from what I've said, there's anything that you wish to say, at the present time on that there is no need to, but if you wish to say anything in response, please do so.

45:18

Okay, okay. Well, thank thank you very much for all that you put in so far and for your presence this evening. Thank you.

45:25

Yes, indeed. Thank you very much. Thanks for your attendance.

45:30

Okay, next on the list. I have Mrs. Viola Langley, speaking on behalf of Claire Wilcox

45:42

could at least before I start, just make a comment. I had to bring my friend Paula Savage. Because she did not know she would be speaking today. So we had no information that she would be speaking to be had no update. Now. I just would like that to be noted as failure. Okay. Leave

46:03

a message about that. Certainly the the the invites were sent out. Hopefully she's got a hold of that invite and can join us. There is still time, of course, if she can.

46:17

If she is she I mean, she has not joined yet because I rang her and she said she would come. But I don't know whether she got that connection. That's a little bit worrying. Okay. I lost my case, to look into that and see what can be done to accommodate her. In the meantime,

46:37

when as you're ready, we look forward to your submission.

46:41

Okay. I'm speaking to you on behalf of Claire Wilcox about the huge physical, mental and financial impact and the short and long term to all Portsmouth residents across the entire island of Portsmouth if the interconnector is granted permission on its current route, Portsmouth is the most densely populated city in the UK outside London, with few green spaces and no integrated electric public transport system. It has rows of narrow streets shown that cause air pollution and back to back terrorist housing. Because of this, Portsmouth residents need access to open space. The proposed interconnector route will have a devastating impact on access to one of the early two large green community spaces Portsmouth has the interlink nature reserves of farlington marshes links to harbour and Milton common. These areas

are much left not only for the beauty, but because they provide much needed respite from heavy urbanisation and are regularly used by hundreds of people in the city so developed, this green space is priceless and irreplaceable. The alternate the screen space to tackle obesity, and government objective introduced in July 2020. And the particular problem in Portsmouth about over a quarter starting primary school are bigger than the national benchmark. This green space is also vital to protecting the city's mental health crisis. over a quarter of Portsmouth people experience a mental health problem each year. But Portsmouth suicide rate has been seven times higher than South East average. local mental health services old stress the importance of looking after mental and physical health through exercise. Being able to do so for free away from busy air polluted streets is vital to the city's mental and physical health. The proposed route will bring further health risk to Portsmouth people in the form of dangerous level of nitrogen dioxide due to an increase in congestion. You need to live in Portsmouth to truly understand how bad the traffic issues already are, and how little it takes to disrupt its flow. Traffic Flow is so delicately balanced that if it rains or a set of traffic light goes down. It has a huge knock on effect across the entire island and traffic grinds to hold. Even without any incidences, traffic is often at standstill daily as one of the only three main arterial routes onto and off an island serving a population density greater than London. Any walks along Easton route will cause gridlock and untold stress and misery to all Portsmouth inhabitants, businesses and visitors not just those along its immediate route. Traffic Management measures along Eastern route during the accident works will lead to queuing traffic in this location. This will have a detrimental impact on air pollution concentrations at the knee exceedance location along Easton road pushing the site into exceedance traffic delays along Eastern roadway resides and traffic rerouting by a London route Eislely m 275 or a 2020 all of which are already an exceedance. Making air quality in these areas is more toxic. Portsmouth air quality levels caused by congestions are already so dangerous. They're illegal. Defra has insisted Portsmouth city council bring pollution

50:00

To safe levels by autumn 2022 by producing a clear air zone by the end of 221. This clean air objective cannot be met if the internet Connect interconnect cables given the go ahead on its current route, as it will exacerbate existing air quality and congestion issues not only in the immediate area five across the whole island of Portsmouth. This gridlock also risk delays for central workers trying to get to St. Mary's and QA hospital, as well as ambulances in Texas with resulting impacts on emergency patient care and discharge time and disruption. Also, it's impacting GPS ability to conduct timely patient home visits and thus availability of general appointments. This gridlock will also discourage business investment and visitors. Putting a city already struggling with poverty nearly a quarter of children in some Portsmouth wards are living in poverty and to further economic decline and risking jobs. No amount of mitigation or financial compensation can counter the huge short and long term impact of the increased traffic congestion, lowering of air quality and subsequent risk to health that the interconnector on this proposed rule because this project contravenes government's own legally enforceable targets on improving air quality, as well as targets on reducing obesity, poverty and mental health. The planning Inspectorate has a legally enforceable duty of care to protect residents from these effects which cannot be mitigated against. It's not a case of not in my backyard. We object to this being forced upon a city without understanding the true impact of this proposed route. Portsmouth does not have the capacity to absorb or mitigate the impact in the short

51:47

or long term.

51:49

Lifetime management impacts on the cable on this proposed route. This current route is totally unacceptable to the residents of Portsmouth. We implore you to not grant permission on the proposed route, but move it somewhere it will not destroy quality of life public access to the irreplaceable green space. Sorry for running over. That's okay.

52:10

Thank you very much for that contribution. And I have no further questions obviously at some but behalf of Mrs. Wilcox, who no doubt will have further submissions or deadlines six. Thank you.

52:25

What I propose to do now is just hear from Mr. Trevor Stark, and then we'll probably take a short break. And during that break, we'll be looking to contact those who wish to

52:41

Speak later on. Mr. Starker. Are you there, sir?

52:51

Hello. Hello, Mr. Stark. Can you hear me

52:59

Very much for joining us this evening. And as and when you're ready, please make a submission.

53:08

Good evening. My name is Karla Star. I'm the chairman of the East Indian Movement Association, which currently comprises 224 members. At last count, our site contains 504 plots, all but two of which are occupied.

53:27

So present, I represent approximately 45% of the plot holders. Currently, the waiting time for an allotment is three to four years.

53:39

When first briefed on equines plans in November 19, we were led to believe that there would be no disruption to the site. Zach Quinn's intention was to install the cable using HDD method. Clearly, if this method of installation proves successful, then we will have little to worry or be concerned about. However, we understand that Aquin is now seeking access and connection rights to parts of the site.

54:04

If granted and subsequently implemented, such rights could cause significant disruption to those parts of the site affected, as it were permit access to plots and possible expert excavation activities at any time. According to the latest plan we have seen up to 163 plots could potentially be affected.

54:28

Our main concern is that short notice trees bushes and plants can be dug up and sheds greenhouses and polytunnels dismantled or removed with little or no consultation with potholders.

54:42

From our perspective, a worst case scenario would be if such intrusion took place between April and August, the five months of the main growing season.

54:52

Depending on the level of intrusion, a whole year's work could easily be destroyed in a matter of hours. Not only that, it could take

55:00

A number of years to fully recover the status quo.

55:04

fruit trees, fruit bushes, and plants such as asparagus are removed and have to be replaced. They will all take a number of years to establish and become productive

55:17

hasn't been proven over the last eight months, the allotment can make an important contribution to an individual's mental health and general well being. Particularly in a densely populated cities such as Portsmouth, where many residents live in either flats or properties with no gardens.

55:33

It can be a peaceful place to go to and for many a much needed source of exercise.

55:38

It is also an important and welcome substitute for non existent private garden where they can relax and enjoy the benefits of an outdoor life in relative privacy

55:48

to allow aquin the right to interfere with such a lifestyle and the manner and timescale is seeking could cause affected plot all his great financial and emotional costs.

55:59

In our view, this is unacceptable.

56:02

Ideally, we would like the cables to be rerouted. But realistically as Portsmouth residents, we realised that in such a congested city as Portsmouth, this may not be possible.

56:13

We would ask therefore, that if the cable route is to pass underneath the allotment at all possible any unnecessary disruption to the site is limited legally to the winter months that the appropriate financial compensation is provided to any affected plotters. Thank you

56:31

very much, Mr. stock. That's much, much appreciated. I just have

56:36

a quick couple of questions for you if I may,

56:40

in terms of what the allotment holders are allowed to do in terms of sort of structures sheds greenhouses, because Could you just elaborate more on what is actually permissible on the allotments and whether or not those structures require foundation. So indeed, if they are allowed place.

57:01

The what is allowed is you can have a shed, or you can have a greenhouse or polytunnel.

57:09

As far as

57:12

the structures themselves are concerned, most people tend to

57:16

use flagstones as a base and sort of bricks as a base, but that you're not allowed really to put down concrete bases or anything like that.

57:29

Okay. Excellent. Thank you very much. My colleague, Mr. Roscoe has a question for you.

57:35

Mr. Stark, good evening, it was about the process really, that is existing at the moment. And I just wanted to

57:43

see what your understanding on it was.

57:46

There is a letter that has been issued by the applicant aquin recently, requesting information on allotment holders details within what we call the order land, but because of data protection, that letter had to go through Portsmouth city council to be distributed to the relevant allotment holders. Is that something that you're aware of, at the moment that that has taken place? Yes. I have that a copy of that letter in front of me at the present moment.

58:21

arrived.

58:23

Most lotto holders I've spoken to receive it last Friday. Right?

58:29

How many will respond to it? I can't say. Yeah, of course, I certainly have responded to it personally. And the only thing the only other thing I would say is that we have a lot of ethnic minority potholders whose English is not necessarily always very good. And it's sometimes difficult to make them understand what's going on. So they may not come, you know, they may not reply.

58:55

But the the letters have certainly gone out. Right. Thank you. And effect, you've it you've actually answered the second part of that particular question, because I was going to ask if you knew of anybody who'd actually received one. So you've done that thank you very much. Right and turning to the allotment area itself and more generally and outside of the order limits.

59:17

When

59:18

I have previously or up to a certain point in time, I've referred to them as Milton peace allotments. It's my understanding that they might actually be split into three to the west, it might be hope cottage allotments to the centre, it might be east, the East knee lake and to the east. It might be what I've just said Milton piece. Is it the case that all the allotments are treated as one effectively? It is yes, it's one site. It's been slimmed down because because it's such a large site. I'm sure they appreciate it the very large site.

59:57

For ease of reference is

1:00:00

I don't know I, I have been a plotter for 27 years and they've always been called hope cottage, East Lake and mountain peace. But

1:00:10

one site and we regard it as one site. Okay, thank you. And then if I was to travel the it's we have actually gone the scene from the highway, the allotments entrance to the east, the eastern allotment entrance, if I can call it that, I understand that there is a Western entrance as well. And that's been talked about in the representations. Are there any gates between the two organ either accesses be used by any of the allotment holders? Of course there would be additional distances involved. But is there any fence or gates to separate the two?

1:00:47

The

1:00:50

there is the main when you come into the main car park for on the east, which is the main? Yeah, there is there are two gates one going into the modern peace site. And one going on to the East Lake site.

1:01:08

site can be accessed from the hope cottage site, which is the western gate. So you can come into the western gate. And you could conceivably work your way through all the way to the western side. However, it would not be all the way along the main paths, you would have to use the secondary paths. So if you were trying to bring things onto the site, and the main car park, an access to Milton piece was closed, it would be very difficult. Right. Okay. Okay, thank you for that. I didn't actually have any further questions for you. But thank you very much for those responses. I do. Yes, indeed. Thank you very much for your contribution. Mr. Stark much appreciated.

1:01:57

Now, I understand that Miss Paula savage has joined us, first of all, Miss savage over there.

1:02:08

Yes, I am. Hello. Hello. Well, I'm sorry, I only received your invite about an hour ago and about an hour ago. So yes, but I have got something for you. I'm not sure if you wanted me to repeat something that I've already sent in all? Okay, well, let me just let you know, what's what's happening and what we would expect as such. In this open flow hearing, my name is David Wallace. I'm one of the panel that forms the examiner in authority. And we are hearing people for slots of five minutes, hearing

1:02:45

representations from them that build upon what they have put in in writing, there is the opportunity at the end of the hearing to put in any written notes written to speech that you wish to make in writing, and submit that to us by deadlines six, which is the 23rd of December.

1:03:06

But effectively, what we're looking to to you from now is to is to hear your views and your representation that you wish to give and that you wish to address us with. Or we'll just give you like the the health warning in the sense that for the general data protection regulations, anything that you are saying is in the public domain, it is being recorded and live streamed at present. And we as the planning Inspectorate will keep hold of any recordings, for over five work for up to five years. So there's

any personal information or Dave Ross, you were trying to give it, things like name, name, address, age,

1:03:49

where your property is and things like that. And otherwise, you would be given your consent for that to be kept in the public domain. Thank you very much. Not a problem. So so in your own time, your timer will start for five minutes, but we look forward to hearing what you have to say thank you. Okay, thank you very much. Okay, so, I'd like to talk about the environmental impact that this project would have on Portsmouth as a city, as already stated many times today, but I need to stress as being one of the second most densely populated city in England that is already suffering with alarming and illegal levels of pollution. The Chaos this would cause the high traffic problems we already have, is in itself one of the main reasons we have to object. We are in a climate emergency in Portsmouth and are supposed to be decreasing pollution levels not adding to it. I'd also like to mention that the area to cable is going to run along is one of Portsmouth only areas of natural biodiversity and nature reserve housing many natural habitats of wildlife

1:05:00

wild birds, trees and plants over 200 to be precise. We have Brent geese there right now that I believe are a protected species, together with a stage two listed block gate, an area that is loved by many. Another extremely concerning point I'd like to raise is the area where the land full of the cave people is going to be, is in an historical landfill, renowned for its vast amount of us asbestos. As was used by the dockyard as a dumping ground over a period of 25 years, the disturbance of this highly dangerous substance would be detrimental to people's house. I've looked at the interactive map on the government's website, and the cable is going to run straight through the middle of landfill sites right up to farlington.

1:05:51

As this issue being addressed, and researched properly as to how the cable will be laid without starving such a dangerous substance that is under the soil in many areas. When I met with the geologists at car park and ferry Road A few weeks ago who was testing the ground contracted in by aquin. To do this, he had absolutely no idea that the area he was doing could well contain asbestos. This rings alarm bells to me, as the area is renowned to contain asbestos and other toxic waste.

1:06:26

And we are supposed to be moving towards green energy. And I understand that the aqualand interconnect cable isn't we already have an interconnected cable coming into the area one as near as Ferrum. Why do we need another cable? Thank you.

1:06:45

Thank you very much. Thank you for your contribution and well done for being able to make it and we're glad to hear it. So thank you for that. And it's fine. I have no particular questions for you. I don't believe my colleagues do either. And the shortly I'll be asking the applicant to respond to all of the representations of what we've heard. So you're welcome to stay on the line to hear that. Okay, thank

you. Just ask if you could mute your microphone and turn your camera off just for the benefit of the the smoothness of the broadband.

1:07:23

Thank you.

1:07:25

Now, I had initially promised a break. But seeing that, unfortunately, counsel Luke Stubbs has been unable to join us for this open floor hearing. I would ask if, Mr. Bird the applicant is happy just to proceed straight to any responses that the applicant wishes to make on the representations that have been heard tonight. Mr. Bird?

1:07:53

As I'm happy to respond, that helps you?

1:07:56

Yes, indeed. Yes, please continue. Thank you. On behalf of the African Can I again, thank all those persons who've made submissions this evening, whether as an individual or representing other organisations or bodies,

1:08:11

and indeed, for contributing to the examination of this development consent or the application. In terms of the topics raised they are wide ranging, and I couldn't do justice to all of the points raised in the time which will be allowed to me so as I did with the approach I adopted at the first open floor hearing session, Sara will respond in writing to the majority of the points which have been raised by deadline six. There are four issues which I would like to raise by way of an overarching summary to some of the points which have been raised. The first is to deal with the issue of traffic, which was particularly raised by Councillor Weems.

1:08:54

And so the applicant recognises that development of the scale of proposed will have a number of impacts on local people, particularly those living close to the order limits. And it's considered and reflected on the responses from all those involved in the consultation processes and an examination and has and continues to take individual views expressed carefully into account and where possible, it has adjusted plans to reflect the knowledge of the local area, and its welcomed the ability to scope and improve proposals which engagement as offered and continues to offer. But more particularly, and specifically in relation to traffic and highways impacts. These have been robustly assessed in the transport assessment and supplementary transport assessment, with the scope and methodology of the assessments being agreed with both Boston city council and Hampshire County Council, the relevant highway authorities and the junction capacity analysis undertaken along the cable corridor and reflecting traffic redistribution on the wider corporate corridor. As demonstrated while there will inevitably be an impact the effects of the proposed development appropriately mitigated

1:10:00

Those will not be severe and the effects will be temporary only and that includes under the worst case sensitively assessment which has been undertaken.

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So the necessary mitigation has been extensively and robustly assessed as well and will be secured through the framework traffic management strategy and the framework construction management plan.

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And it includes governing access to properties and communication to residents, and the communication strategy will be in place to address that. And the cable corridor and construction programme to address a particular point raised by Councillor Williams ensures that school terms

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will be there'll be no construction during school terms on the onshore cable corridor where the links that contain schools, or where schools are directly adjacent to the onshore cable corridor exist, though on those links, there will be no construction during school terms.

1:11:02

And that is set out in the

1:11:05

onshore outline construction environmental management plan.

1:11:10

I could turn them into ecological effects and biodiversity.

1:11:15

Extensive considerations been given to the effects of the proposed development on ecological receptors, including all designated sites, and no residual significant effects have been identified. And where a potential effect has been identified, the approach has been to seek to avoid that effect and where that's not possible to mitigate it.

1:11:37

And the applicant is also committed to habitat creation through the outline landscape and biodiversity strategy. And the proposed development will deliver a net gain for all habitats of principle importance eye priority habitats, with particular reference to the European designated sites and the marine perect protection areas, which are referred to burns Morton, both natural England and the marine management organisation are satisfied that with the mitigation proposed, there would be no adverse effects on their integrity and very careful considerations being given to the Chichester and Langston harbour SP a special protection area and the intertidal bird community and to Brent geese. And there is a proposed winter season restriction and the period October to March

1:12:27

in relation to working in relevant areas and any adverse effects can be avoided. And so that has been agreed with natural England and the duty marine management organisation.

1:12:40

Turn them next to air quality issues.

1:12:45

And so,

1:12:47

the air quality assessment undertaken identify no significant air quality effects as a result of the construction related traffic emissions or non construction traffic related emissions. The impacts associated with diversions, road closures and construction traffic impacts are transitory, temporary in nature, and not predicted to impact on the ability to meet obligations under the European Union's air quality directive 2008 50, etc.

1:13:16

and finally survive to just revisit the issue of the allotments which we touched upon earlier today. In terms of the

1:13:24

papers or hearing number one.

1:13:31

As I said this morning, the applicants proposal has always been that the online onshore cable corridor 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 developed consent order. All that the applicant seeks his rights for pedestrian access over some existing paths and internal roads for monitoring unlimited cleanup during the horizontal directional drilling process. And there will be no restriction on access for a lot of untold hours, or removal or destruction of their plots or structures. And so to ensure that absolute decay, as I said earlier, the applicant has made amendments to the land plans book of reference, and works.

1:14:15

That's all I have to say on behalf of the applicant at this stage. Thanks very much. Thank you very much, Mr. Bird much appreciated for for that. Okay, and in terms of the agenda, that brings us to the end of agenda item four and completes the list of speakers who registered to us at this hearing.

1:14:34

So we'll move now to agenda item five, which is the proceedings for closing this hearing. I will just point out that from the examination timetable, it was shown that tomorrow the eighth of December hat was being held in reserve for any open floor hearings if required. I can confirm that these are not so tomorrow, there are no hearings. The next

1:15:00

Formal deadline is deadline six on the 23rd of December 2020. And those of you who have spoken today should ensure that any written summaries of your oral submissions reached 70 or 40 by that date. Thank you, everybody for your contributions to this hearing and thank you everyone for watching the live stream and catching this up on the audio recording later. This open floor hearing is now closed. Thank you.