



11th August 2021

Dear Mr Kwarteng

Ref: Aquind Interconnector OBJECTION

As a small business owner and resident on the west side of Portsmouth you might think that the work required to put in the Aquind Interconnector would not affect us but what happens on the East of the City will adversely affect every corner of this incredibly densely populated place which is already under pressure with regards traffic, housing and perhaps more importantly, now than ever post covid, our GREEN SPACES.

The idea that this project could be undertaken without increasing traffic and air pollution – we already have recognised poor air quality - is laughable. Houses and streets here are small and rarely have significant gardens. A large proportion of residents rely on the limited green spaces for their recreation and exercise and those pushed out of Milton Common & Bransbury Park will inevitably have to use the scarce spaces in other parts of the City and, if they have cars, they will have to use them to get there. Portsmouth is an Island with just 3 roads in and out of the city – if you dig up the Eastern Rd then drivers are forced to use the others and as an Island we do not have suburbs with greenspaces to drive out to.

Our football club enjoys legendary and massive support with fans coming from the outlying areas on match days into an already overcrowded central area of the city.

How will the motorway which brings traffic in from across the country to use the ferry ports to holiday in the Isle of Wight and Europe, to shop at Gunwharf, & enjoy our world class visitor attractions at the Dockyard cope when it also has to act as the only artery in and out of the City. We already suffer on match days, high days and holidays or when a breakdown occurs on just one of our 3 roads.

Literally how will the work required to implement this project 'fit'?

WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT The wildlife at Fort Cumberland (I recently saw Green Finches) and the common as well as Milton Allotments will inevitably be badly affected from the damage and upheaval that will be caused by literally digging up the environment which is largely sat on historic and relatively currently safe landfill. Only the existence of chimney flues give a clue as to the waste under those spaces which has lain undisturbed for a long time allowing flora & fauna to flourish creating a haven for birds in particular but also obviously for people. Even a temporary (how temporary?) removal of these spaces will cause irreparable damage to both the wildlife and the health of the people of the city. Covid has taught us that access to greenspaces and the activity they engender are beneficial to both physical and

mental health. In a crowded City the allotments on the East side of the city are small areas of both healthy food production, peace and community activity.

There has been a lack of transparency about this project from its inception creating a foment of distrust in the process:

1. Who will benefit and who has already benefitted from the project? Thanks to investigative journalism we have begun to get a picture of a project that has been deliberately cloaked in secrecy – why is that? The detail as to how this project may be implemented with minimal disruption to the city are sketchy at best.
2. There will be zero local employment from this project. Any small benefit to the local economy (from workers buying sandwiches?) will be outweighed by loss of parking, loss of green spaces, noise, disruption and quality of life.
3. How was this route chosen? Are there better alternatives? Was this route chosen because of a cost imperative to Aquind and it's shareholders?
4. Why wasn't there local consultation?
5. Will there be any compensation to local business which will inevitably suffer as a result of a project from which Aquind will certainly financially benefit?
6. Will I as a Portsmouth resident get a say as to what power is piped through this tunnel and get to choose my supplier accordingly so that I know it's from renewables?

FINALLY If this project is a good project which is both necessary and beneficial to Portsmouth and the Country then it should be properly and impartially assessed as a major infrastructure project. Why has no one come here to sell this project to the people of Portsmouth? This feels yet again like the little people are being crapped on.

Thank you for reading and please take seriously our concerns. I can assure you that as I collect signatures to have the issues around this project debated in Parliament the people on the west side of the city are just as alarmed as those on the East, the North and the South and all political persuasions are for once united in strongly objecting to this project.

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Crow & Christopher Jones