

From:

To:

Subject:

Date:

Aquind Interconnector, Normandy to Lovedean via Eastney, Portsmouth.

29 September 2021 18:18:20

To the inspectorate and all those with the power to make decisions,

A heartfelt, rational and reasoned plea not to continue with this project, in this place.

As an island nation we must take more responsibility for generating our own clean, green energy as we look to the future, finding sustainable ways to harness the natural powers available to us. To rely on another interconnector sourcing power from another country is not, in the long term a sensible or sustainable way forward. It makes us vulnerable to the vagaries of another nation state, however friendly at present, and this is not a reasonable position to be in as we make our green energy policies for the future.

This costly project, is ill conceived, will bring unnecessary disruption to one of the most densely populated areas of the UK causing irreversible damage to areas already deemed to be of special scientific importance and disrupt the ecology of the area.

Residents of this small, crowded area of the country need the precious open spaces available to us for our health and wellbeing; our two local MPs, Stephen Morgan for Portsmouth South (Labour), and Penny Mordaunt Portsmouth North, (Conservative); the leader of our City Council, Gerald Vernon Jackson (Liberal Democrat) and other local councillors representing all parties have raised their voices in unanimous opposition to the Aquind scheme. It is unusual to have such unanimity, such a clear and decisive opposition to a scheme from all political parties as well as the residents whose interests they represent.

You will be aware of the petition recently presented to Parliament by Stephen Morgan which was signed by almost 7,000 people, many of whom I spoke with; I am sure you will agree that a physical petition, not an online one, to be signed by so many people indicates the strength of local opposition to the project. Almost everyone I have spoken to about it, once they realise the implications of the scheme are against this.

The site and works surrounding the proposed project would destroy parts of a locally very well used and much loved part of Eastney – it is a unique area and all the more precious for this. I am aware of the many objections on scientific and economic grounds and will not reiterate those here others far better informed will have done so.

My objection is representative of many local people, some aware, some not yet aware of what they would lose in this one small area. The disruption to the area immediately surrounding the proposed landing site for the cable would make a highly significant negative impact on the residents and visitors to this area, as well as the wildlife. Moving on through the Eastney and Milton areas and up, off Portsea Island through to Lovedean there will be more, sustained, intrusive, polluting and unwarranted disruption, and for what real benefit?

Energy which could be produced more cheaply, efficiently, more sustainably and in a way which does not impact negatively on the ecology of the area and the wider environment can be produced where there is the will. It seems that this project is less about producing something necessary and more about making a great deal of money for a very few people at the great expense of many people in Portsmouth and surrounding areas who will lose

something precious which will never be regained, for no good reason.

If democracy means anything in this country, you will listen to all of us who have worked so hard to save our precious local environment and reach the only reasonable conclusion, that is to stop the project now. I am not a 'natural' activist or objector – I prefer to support charities in a quiet way behind the scenes, but here is something local, immediate and wrong, which I care passionately about, which is short term, stoppable, or should be if democracy is alive and reason prevails and therefore well worth an up front activist position. Poverty can't be stopped with a few placards and letters any more than war can, but this can be stopped; you have the power to do that, and I have the expectation that you will, because that would be the right thing to do on every level.

Thank you,

Lynne Harvey

Resident of Eastney

