

Atkins, Caelan

From: Jacob Short For Fratton [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 March 2023 10:21
To: Aquind Interconnector
Subject: AQUIND Interconnector Portsmouth OBJECTION

Categories: Consultation Response

To whom it may concern,

My name is Jacob Short, I am a resident of Portsmouth, Hampshire, and I am writing to you today to voice my objection for the AQUIND interconnector project that wants to run from Portsmouth to Lovedean. If this project goes forward, it is going to have a detrimental effect on Portsmouth's environmental, economic and residential life. I am 18 years old, so I am writing to you from the perspective of a young person in the city; someone who is looking to spend my foreseeable future in this city. The AQUIND interconnector is going to cause harm to the city that I, and hundreds if not thousands of young people, are going to be spending our lives residing in.

This project is also going to destroy an already delicate and precious ecosystem that Portsmouth has, with allotment holders having their plots threatened by the dangerous chemicals that are going to be used. Green spaces are also going to be dug up and fenced off, destroying habitats for the wildlife that we have in the city. Routes for dog walkers are going to be shut off, affecting the emotional and mental well being of dog walkers who rely on their peaceful and calming walks with the greenery within our city, or the elderly who walk in our fields and green areas. Why would you willingly put profit above a city's environment and people's mental health?

Secondly, the gridlock that the construction is going to cause will admit more carbon emissions, as well as the danger on smaller roads that aren't built for a mass amount of cars. This will also lead to danger to children and parents during school pick-up and drop-off hours. I have a little brother and sister who attend a local school, both under the age of 10. Portsmouth's residential roads are not built for multiple cars to be passing through them while our major roads are shut due to this destructive plan.

Third of all, businesses will also be affected by this work with the gridlock preventing customers from getting to the stores, or people travelling to work. What if these works stop a nurse trying to travel to QA Hospital, Cosham, with an already stretched NHS? Or our already overwhelmed police team trying to get to a victim's house to provide specialist victim support? How much are you willing to take away from Portsmouth residents?

Next, the health of children and vulnerable people is going to be damaged from the fumes and pollution in years to come from the building works that will be taking place to build the AQUIND interconnector. The amount of pollution produced will then be added by the use of cars creating congestion from the delayed traffic caused by these works.

Sports will also be impacted by the works. Portsmouth is known for its sports, with Portsmouth FC, Hilsea Cricket Club, military sports games at HMS Temeraire. But also our smaller pitches and facilities that will be closed during the building works for the installation of the cables. You'd be taking away hobbies and passions for the children of the city by removing their facilities, and also taking away the livelihoods of sports and football coaches and club staff, and so much more.

People's homes will also be blighted by the works, with roads having things such as manholes and pipes, it is extremely difficult for the route to take place without damages being done to residential areas in some way shape or form. So not just will this work be effecting the people of Portsmouth economically, environmentally and socially, but also in their own homes.

But my biggest fear of all is the threat to our democracy as residents. People from across the political spectrum have come together and objected to this scheme. Stephen Morgan MP (Labour and Penny

Mordaunt MP (Conservative) , as well as the City Council (cross-party), have all come together with residents to have our democracy upheld and respected, putting all personal politics aside. Will you go against a whole city for profit?

I hope you make the right decision; listen to the people of Portsmouth and object the proposal of the AQUIND interconnector.

Kind regards,
Jacob Short

--

Jacob Short
PIP Candidate for Fratton Ward, Portsmouth

