

Atkins, Caelan

From: Katie Lawrence <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 30 March 2023 13:13
To: Aquind Interconnector
Subject: Aquind Interconnector Objection
Categories: Consultation Response

To whom it may concern,

My name is Katrina Lawrence, I am a resident of Portsmouth, Hampshire, and I am writing 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 long term, unavoidable, and significantly detrimental effect on Portsmouth's environmental, economic and residential life.

I am a [REDACTED] who has lived in this area with my family all of my life. I have seen many changes, good and bad, and understand the impact upon daily living of the work being proposed, and feel strongly about the longer term impact it will also have upon the future of my city and beyond.

The AQUIND interconnector is going to cause harm to the city that I and thousands of other disabled people must live and work in, contributing to the difficulties faced by people with mobility issues, pulmonary issues, MH issues, and (at least during the work) anyone reliant on the efficient movement of carers, district nurses, and frequent - often emergency - trips to medical facilities on already congested roads.

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, many of which will increase the potentially fatal allergic symptoms of residents with Mast Cell Activation Syndrome and Multiple Chemical Sensitivity. 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 emit more carbon emissions, as well as the danger on smaller roads that aren't built for a vast quantity of cars. This will also lead to danger to children and parents during school pick-up and drop-off hours, and make navigating the city much harder for disabled pedestrians, such as people in wheelchairs or those with learning disabilities or sensory processing disorders.

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. It will undo the efforts to create Clean Air Zones within the city and will mean that we miss all our targets regarding air quality and pollution reduction in Portsmouth, and will tip the surrounding areas into similar difficulty when many are currently doing well at maintaining safe levels.

Sports will also be impacted by the works. Portsmouth is known for its sports, with Portsmouth FC, Hilsa 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. This may increase antisocial behaviour in the city, particularly among young people and those from low socioeconomic backgrounds who will be less able to travel to seek alternatives.

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 only will this work be affecting the people of Portsmouth economically, environmentally and socially, but also in their own homes. This will have an impact on people's ability to sell their homes, and will affect the accessibility of the homes of vulnerable and disabled residents. It will also affect the mental and physical wellbeing of the residents, having such large scale, intrusive, and disruptive works so close to residential areas. Disabled residents who rely on vehicular transportation may face being trapped in their homes for extended periods as the residential streets around them are closed off or made unsafe for their needs. Vulnerable people may also be left unable to receive deliveries to their home, including those of prescriptions and groceries, which will have the greatest impact upon mostly housebound residents like myself and my elderly grandmother. This will all be foisted upon them with no recourse, and the disruption is likely to be ongoing for weeks or months at a time. This is unacceptable in every regard.

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.

Yours Faithfully,
Katrina Lawrence