

PARISH COUNCIL OF DENMEAD



MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 6th March 2019 IN THE PAVILION, KING GEORGE V,
ASHLING PARK ROAD, DENMEAD COMMENCING AT 7.30 pm

Members: Cllr P Langford-Smith (Chairman) (P)
Cllr K Andreoli (P)
Cllr O Barneveld (P)
Cllr A Berry (P)
Cllr I Brown (P)
Cllr D Carden (P)
Cllr D Crichton (P)
Cllr A Jones (P)
Cllr J Morphett
Cllr R Pearson (P)
Cllr N Rusbridger (P)

Also present: **82 members of the public and Lydia Merriman, Deputy Clerk to the Council. Mr James Wood, Mr Will Bridges and Mr Mick McGuckin from AQUIND. Also in attendance, District Councillor Brook and County Councillor Stallard.**

209/19P Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllr Morphett. **Noted.**

210/19P Declarations of Interest: There were no declarations of interest received. **Noted.**

211/19P Minutes of Previous Meeting: The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th February 2019 were submitted for approval. **It was RESOLVED that the Minutes be accepted as an accurate record and were duly signed by the Chairman of the meeting.**

212/19P Presentation by AQUIND: A presentation was received by the representatives of AQUIND in relation to the development proposal. An update was initially provided to inform that in July 2018, The Secretary of State had directed that the proposal should be treated as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and that following the statutory consultation process, the Planning Inspectorate's recommendation will be made to the Secretary of State and a decision will be made in late 2020. The anticipated date of construction for the project is due to commence in 2021.

A preferred location has been identified for the Converter Station (as described by Route B), although no confirmation has yet been provided, due to mitigating impacts. There will be two telecommunication buildings installed and AQUIND are currently in consultation with the local planning authorities whereby discussions are taking place in relation to their approach to the design and landscape mitigation.

AQUIND is still in the process of establishing which route will be chosen for the installation of the underground cable. A map was produced which indicated the location of Denmead as Section 3. It was explained that a number of route options are still being considered, of which there would be inevitable implications relating to either traffic and environmental disruption. One route would involve laying the cable primarily through the countryside and the other route mainly through main roads.

Mr Bridges concluded the presentation by advising that any feedback is welcomed and should be submitted to AQUIND by 29th April 2019 in preparation for the submission of an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO). He encouraged residents to consider all the consultation documents before submitting their completed consultation feedback forms. Information including the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) can be accessed online at www.aquindinterconnector.co.uk The last of the formal community consultations is to be held at Denmead Memorial Hall on 5th April 2019 at 4.00pm – 8.00pm and all local residents were invited to attend.

213/19P Questions from Councillors: On behalf of Denmead Parish Council, Councillors addressed the three representatives from AQUIND, in order to ask the following questions and to raise comments in respect of the AQUIND Interconnector development proposal.

Q. The Chairman, Cllr Langford-Smith, began by making the observation that the location of Denmead could have been avoided, particularly in respect of the low turnout of residents to the initial consultations in 2018. She stated that out of 98,000 people, only 239 residents attended, highlighting the fact that many Denmead residents were not given the opportunity to submit their feedback. She concluded by asking how they would ensure the countryside would be protected if AQUIND's preferred cable route should be chosen.
A. *By use of an underground drill, it is hoped that interference to the environment would be prevented.*

Q. Cllr Brown asked why preference was being given to laying the cables along Hambledon Road, when it seemed obvious that less traffic disruption would be caused if Anmore Road and Soake Road were to be chosen instead, as these are narrower roads containing minimal road infrastructure.
A. *There would be a need to install cables into split circuits at both ends. Detailed information in relation to the methodology and why specific routes may be chosen, is provided within the consultation reports and documentation.*

Q. Cllr Andreoli expressed his concern about the large Interconnectors, particularly in relation to noise levels and possible flood lighting which would be clearly visible around the village, due to the height of the infrastructure. He stated that the areas to the North of Denmead is a dark sky area.
A. *The building would be sunk into the ground as low as possible, ensuring that the balance of the building is maintained. There would be no external night-time lighting and lighting would only be used in emergencies. Noise levels would be reduced and details of how this would be achieved is to be found in the consultation documentation.*

Q. Cllr Crichton asked if it is currently legally binding that the Secretary of State would be making a decision in 2020.
A. *Unless the legal process were to change, the Secretary of State would provide a decision by 2020, in relation to the submission of the application for a Development Consent Order.*

Q. Cllr Berry asked how AQUIND would ensure that the large culverts would avoid becoming damaged.
A. *During the construction phase, a utility overview would be conducted which would involve ground investigations by collecting samples to gain further information.*

Q. Cllr Brown asked why has personal information such as mortgage details been requested in relation to ownership of land.
A. *It is the responsibility and duty of the Applicant to establish ownership and interest of land as part of the legal process. Part of the legal principle is to ensure ownership of land boundary and sub soil before any installation commences.*

Q. Cllr Rusbridger wished to know how AQUIND intend to prevent possible damage to the hedgerows and farmland, as stated in their report.
A. *An Environmental Impact Statement would be produced. Care would be taken to minimise damage and to avoid areas of significance, where at all possible. Technical specialists would then provide the appropriate mitigation which would need to be accepted by the DCO.*

Q. Cllr Andreoli stated that some residents in Denmead, who do not appear to own properties within the "red zone" area, have received letters in relation to the ownership of land. This has caused anxiety and confusion by many residents.
A. *This was a matter which could not be specifically commented on, although people with land interest would have received the letters.*

Q. Cllr Carden asked what is the design process in relation to the DCO.
A. *The Developer would design their own draft and then permission would be granted.*

Q. Cllr Brown asked how many access covers and man holes would be along the route?

A. *A number of joint bays would be required along the route. Although the number is yet to be confirmed, three covers were likely to be placed along the route, approximately 1 kilometre apart.*

Q. Cllr Rusbridger referred to the underground culverts to be installed under fields, which AQUIND predicted would measure 20 metres wide. Cllr Rusbridger wished to know how this would affect the meadows and ensure it remained a protected site.

A. *In order to minimise the effects of disruption, a specialist arboriculture department would assess the profile of the landscape in relation to the drilling. The ground water supply would also be determined. Contact has also been made with Natural England.*

The Chairman concluded this session by informing public members that a separate list of questions had already been forwarded to the team from AQUIND and responses to these questions would be advertised on DPC's website once they had been received.

214/19P Public Participation: At 8.28pm the meeting recessed into open forum to allow questions and comments from members of the public, not covered by Councillors' questions in respect of the AQUIND Interconnector development proposal. The meeting re-convened at 9.12pm.

AQUIND Interconnector:

215/19P (a) AQUIND Interconnector Consultation: Correspondence had been received from AQUIND to inform that a statutory consultation on its proposals for the AQUIND Interconnector would be held at various local locations between 27th February 2019 and 29th April 2019 and that all responses should be submitted to AQUIND by no later than 29th April 2019. **Noted.**

216/19P (b) Proposals Which May Affect Ownership of Land: Correspondence had been received from AQUIND to request information, in relation to the proposals which may affect ownership of land. **It was unanimously RESOLVED that DPC should submit the requested information to AQUIND in respect of ownership of land and assets.**

217/19P Public Participation in Relation to Other Matters: There was no requirement for a public session in respect of planning applications and other planning matters appertaining to this committee.

218/19P Planning Application: **It was RESOLVED that the following comments be forwarded to Winchester City Council.**

(1) Denmead
Ref No: Not Available Press advert date:
Case No: 19/00245/HOU Comments by: Not Available
Date Valid: 12 February 2019 Decision due: 9 April 2019
Team: Case Officer: Cameron Finch
Applicant: Ms Amanda Hills
Proposal: Single storey rear extension (reduced footprint).
Location: 2 Valley Meadow Mews, Anthill Close, Denmead, PO7 6DE
The Parish Council of Denmead, by a unanimous decision, raised **NO OBJECTION** to this proposal.

(2) Denmead
Ref No: PP-07603710 Press advert date:
Case No: 19/00256/HOU Comments by: 13 March 2019
Date Valid: 11 February 2019 Decision due: 8 April 2019
Team: Case Officer: Cameron Finch
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Langdon
Proposal: Erect a rear extension.
Location: 2 Landrace Square, Waterlooville, PO7 7FJ
The Parish Council of Denmead, by a unanimous decision, raised **NO OBJECTION** to this proposal.

(3) Denmead
 Ref No: PP-07608747 Press advert date:
 Case No: 19/00270/TPO Comments by: Not Available
 Date Valid: 13 February 2019 Decision due: 8 April 2019
 Team: Case Officer: Stefan Kowalczyk
 Applicant: Denmead Parish Council
 Proposal: This application is for 5 trees that require work.
 T1 – English Oak ~ 3m off overhanging branches.
 T9 – Beech ~ 4-5m off dead limb.
 T10 – Oak ~ 3m crown reduction over footpath.
 T11 – Oak ~ crown reduction by approximately 3m.
 T6 – Oak ~ requires removal of lightning struck limb (approximately 30cm in diameter). Lower weight branches require lifting by approximately 2m.
 Location: King George’s Field, Ashling Park, Denmead, PO7 6EH
 The Parish Council of Denmead, by a unanimous decision, raised **NO OBJECTION** to this proposal.

(4) Denmead
 Ref No: PP-07589457 Press advert date:
 Case No: 19/00383/HOU Comments by: 22 March 2019
 Date Valid: 19 February 2019 Decision due: 16 April 2019
 Team: Case Officer: Marge Ballinger
 Applicant: Dee Farwell
 Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension.
 Location: 40 Anmore Road, Denmead, PO7 6NP
 The Parish Council of Denmead, by a unanimous decision, raised **NO OBJECTION** to this proposal.

- 219/19P** **Decisions Received:** A list of decisions by Winchester City Council had been received and copied to members for their information. **Noted.**
- 220/19P** **Outstanding Matters and Matters Arising:** There were no outstanding matters or matters arising to be considered. **Noted.**
- 221/19P** **Correspondence:** There was no separate correspondence to consider. **Noted.**
- 222/19P** **West of Waterlooville Major Development Area:** There was no new information to report. **Noted.**
- 223/19P** **Matters Relating to Building Developments within the Parish:** There was no new information to report. **Noted.**
- 224/19P** **New Planning Applications:** There was one new application received. **Noted.**
- 225/19P** **Exempt Business:** It was **RESOLVED**, that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, to exclude the public and press for the discussion of the following matters where publicity might be prejudicial to the special nature of the business namely Enforcement Matters, Listed Buildings, Confidential Discussions and Tree Preservation Orders.

The meeting closed at 9.29pm

**The next scheduled meeting of this Committee
 will be held in The Old School, Denmead
 at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 27th March 2019**

Signed: _____ Date: _____

PUBLIC SESSION ~ Planning Committee Meeting 6th March 2019

214/19P Public Participation: The meeting recessed into open forum to allow questions and comments from members of the public, not covered by Councillors' questions in respect of the AQUIND Interconnector development proposal.

Q. District Cllr Brook expressed her view by saying that the representatives from AQUIND had not provided any examples of what the landscape would look like during or after the completion of the project. She continued that the area, which is part of the South Downs National Park, is very high up and therefore a visual impact of the large structures would be inevitable. She concluded that in her opinion there was a level of disquiet amongst local authorities due to a lack of clarity from AQUIND.

A. *A projected view of what the project will look like is to be found on the consultation documents. There had been regular meetings with all 5 local authorities, which forms part of the consultation process.*

Q. County Cllr Stallard asked how AQUIND intended on approaching the issue of the long-term inconvenience and considerable disruption, to both residents and businesses. She asked if there had been any negotiation or mitigation in relation to traffic management at HCC. She also asked for a predicted time frame for the inevitable disruption.

A. *A Construction Traffic Management Plan would be developed. Liaising with HCC, proposals would be set out. It is uncertain as to the time frame but disruption would be minimised.*

Q. Mr Sansom living in Anmore Road said he could clearly see the lighting of the Lovedean Power Station from behind his property. He asked whether the existing power station would be removed and replaced.

A. *Lovedean Interconnector buildings are in addition to the Lovedean Interconnector which is being treated as a separate matter.*

Q. Jeremy Warren referred to the two options of cable route described in the original consultation documents. He asked that in light of Option B being chosen, was there any chance of the decision being changed to consider Option A.

A. *AQUIND would not now consider changing to Option A as it is not part of the current proposal for the part of land now identified.*

Q. Chris Barker asked if the cable route options consisted of one of the three options or a multiple of three options which were to be considered.

A. *There would be two options available, either through Anmore Road or Hambledon Road and different techniques would be used for either option.*

Q. Caroline Lynch was interested to know where the motivation for the project had come from. She asked if it had been suggested by the French Government or whether it was a private interest.

A. *Electricity Interconnectors are actively encouraged to be used around the world within the energy sector. The project of the Lovedean Interconnector is not a Government initiative but is privately funded.*

Q. Mr Lynch asked what experience AQUIND had of this kind of project and whether AQUIND has the capability to deliver. He also asked if there would be a financial guarantee to complete the project.

A. *AQUIND is a registered company based in the UK which has the capability to utilise various consultants for the construction process. The design and planning aspect of the project is managed on behalf of AQUIND, which is a strictly governed process. There is enough finance in order to complete the project.*

Q. Rebecca Marsden gave the view that AQUIND should provide more reassurance to the public in relation to the company's financial backing.

A. *Every Development Consent Order requires proof of funding, which is used as evidence on the funding statement of the application.*

Q. A resident wished to know how much the overall project would be costing.

A. *A costing could not be provided at this stage.*

Continued PUBLIC SESSION ~ Planning Committee Meeting 6th March 2019

Q. Judith Clementson asked who would be providing the funding for the long-term maintenance. She said her concern was that the general public would be responsible. She also asked if a health assessment had been carried out to ensure the buildings would be safe.

A. *Maintenance of the cables would be low and the onshore cables have a long-life endurance. Any maintenance would be privately funded. A health assessment had been conducted in relation to statutory requirements.*

Q. Steven Coult from Lovedean asked why AQUIND had made the choice of location for the Converter.

A. *As part of the initial consultation process with respect to the National Grid, decisions were made because of constraints at other locations. One of the reasons for using Lovedean, is that there are existing cables in situ and the site is outside of South Downs National Park.*

Q. Sally Priddey asked what the main difference would be in relation to digging trenches through the fields or the main roads.

A. *Different techniques and ways of drilling would be used to dig the trenches, which would be dug to approximately 1.5metres.*

Q. Cllr Langford-Smith asked if it is possible to build houses on top of laid cables.

A. *Yes, it is possible depending on what footings are required.*

Q. Neil from Mill Road asked what traffic management would be put in place during the building phase in relation to the private parking along residential roads.

A. *This issue would be addressed as part of the Construction Management Plan. Displacing parking to alternative areas may have to be considered.*

Q. Dave Cox from Anmore Road asked if there are any images for the public to see, which shows the size of the equipment to be used during the construction phase. He also asked if the trenching would be laid during 24-hour periods. He concluded by asking where would the construction vehicles and equipment be parked when not in use.

A. *New specialist equipment would be used and more information can be found on the consultation documents. The duration of time used to install the trenches would be dependent on the location. The construction site would have a designated area where all vehicles and equipment would be left and strict regulations would be adhered to, as stated on the consultation documents.*

Q. Mr Dorking asked if there would be noise or vibration permeating underground, both during operation and on completion.

A. *During operation, it is not anticipated that there would be any noise but there would be minimal noise from the Converter Station during certain times on completion.*

Q. Helen Brinkwell asked if there is a cost implication relating to the different options for the installation of cables and she wished to know whether the comments from the public would be taken into account.

A. *The most important determining factor would be the impact on the environment which is part of the consultation process. All feedback would be considered on the Consultation Report.*

Cllr Langford-Smith concluded the Public Participation by thanking AQUIND. She stated that any additional questions from the public may be sent to The Deputy Clerk, who would then forward to AQUIND. All other relevant information would be made available, as received, on Denmead Parish Council's website.

The public was encouraged to submit all their feedback by 29th April 2019 on the relevant forms, as found on AQUIND's website.