Community Action Team Meeting (CAT)
24 July 2017 – IFA2 Holy Rood

Who was there?


Residents: approx. 200

What was talked about?

Cllr Wood, the Chairman of the meeting, gave a brief introduction and introduced the speakers.

You can view the presentation here.

Questions from the floor

Q 17 of France’s nuclear reactors to be shut down by 2025 so there may not be a surplus. Planning permission for the outline application should not have been given. We have put in an application for reversion which the minister is aware is coming.
A Fareham Borough Council dealt with the application correctly. The legal advice I have received supports this. If the minister had wanted to call it in he would have.

Q Re the sound levels, estimate that 30 decibels will reach the training centre and the industrial centre. Are they aware of this?
A They will all be consulted as a result of the Reserve Matter applications. The mitigation measures will be on part of the Converter Station Building to limit the noise emissions. Impacts upon other businesses and the attractiveness of the enterprise zone and implications for businesses seeking to relocate here are part of the legal agreement signed by National Grid. The issue of noise and the impact on other businesses is assessed and detailed in the January committee report – specifically the last three paragraphs of the noise section on page 45. Crudely noise dissipates with distance and the noise will be at an acceptable level by the time it reaches the nearest commercial plot to the south of the site given the daytime background noise levels at the time these buildings will be used when compared against the emission from the site. It would be even less by the time it gets to CEMAST or the innovation centre.

Q Are there any other buildings like this that we can draw upon experience of?
A There are others operating in this country.

Q I’ve not heard anything in your presentation about how it will effect residents of Hook
Lane and Chilling Lane?
A    Chilling detailed planning consent was given back in January. But those considerations were taken into account.

Q    The noise predictions show it spreads out across Daedalus airfield but nothing comes across Broom Way. The westerly breeze will carry noise away from Fareham to Gosport but there is no mention of this.
A    The predictions don’t just look at Fareham. Even if planning consent is given and things are not as they should be then there will money be available to spend to mitigate this. Ultimately the facility could be closed down by the Council.

Q    Re other interconnectors around the world, can you name one where the converter station is not located where the connector is?
A    No

Q    Re practical demonstration, if you could generate 30 decibels at the right frequency but not tell residents when you are doing it you would have a good idea of whether it is effecting us or not.
A    Put that in writing please and we will look to do it.

Q    Why did I get a letter for this meeting, but not one in January if Chilling was discussed then?
A    My understanding was that it was the same list of people who was written to each time.

Q    I thought this was a meeting to look at meaningful complex issues regarding this substation but we are just being invited to comment on some landscaping.
A    We are talking about one of the largest planning applications we have ever received. Yes landscaping is part of it. I’m sure there are many special interests in this building today radio frequency, building, sound, traffic they are all relevant. If people want to ask questions they can and nothing is hidden.

Q    Re the demo on site about effect of EMF generated by cables. How will this be satisfactory given the demo would be minuscule in proportion to the sort of power you will put through the cables in reality?
A    Current flowing through cables creates EMF. We can create a very high current at low voltage. High voltage test centre just outside Eastleigh are setting up arrangements to do this. It will be a faithful representation.

Q    Re sound in the south west, it’s concerning as two groups of hangars are to be built here. Is there anymore mitigation to be done re sound to south west?
A    We have done everything thinking about issues such as noise RFI and building height. Sound limits are way below any occupational health issues you can get from sound.
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Q  If building fails to meet standards laid down have you the power to shut it down and will you?  
A  Yes

Q  Will construction of this take place before the construction of Stubbington bypass? My concern is my two young grand children I walk to school on a very narrow pavement. Concerned about lorries causing a hazard to young children  
A  Yes in the main. There will be a construction plan if it goes ahead which will include a traffic routing plan. The points you make are very good ones and please include them on your submission as well.

Q  Are there any other such structures being planted into an urban environment?  
A  There is no AC/DC infrastructure in this sort of location but there are a lot of substations within 10 meters of residents in central London. The precautions we take to protect the public are the same as we are doing here. Tall substations in cities do exist. The issue around noise and EMF I am familiar with.

Q  Re secretary of state- what contact did FBC receive from secretary of state to issue their consent on 11 April?  
A  None at all

Q  I didn’t see Stubbington bypass into account on any of the IFA2 drawings?  
A  Stubbington bypass doesn’t go through Daedalus at all.

Q  Has there been any experience of one of these built on an airfield?  
A  Yes in Madrid, there are high voltage AC cables running under a runway and no issues. I agree no DC.

Q  Will brexit effect funding?  
A  I am advised not at all by National Grid.

Q  How much is FBC going to be getting for this connector and will some of that money be paid back to residents who will suffer devaluation of their properties?  
A  There will be a premium on the lease and money to fit out the new open space, some improvements on the airport itself, linkages between Daedalus and Alver Valley. Local planning authority does not take valuations of property into account.

Q  Prysmian are doing the testing is that correct? But they also have the contract to supply the cable?  
A  Yes correct

Q  Re test for EMF… how can a limited voltage be on a par with the actual current  
A  DC cables when installed will be carrying 1600 amps. Test being planned will consist of passing 1600 amps along 100 metres and back again and the voltage required to do that is
lower. The test will reproduce exactly same current as there will be for real, AC is 800 amps. Both tests will have same current that will be present. Potentially will do test on some existing AC cables at chilling and some other sites, we are still planning the tests that will be required to satisfy planning constraints. We will do as many tests as necessary and we are happy to have members of residents' associations along. There is nothing being hidden.

**Q** If the company who will do the test is also going to supply the cables then isn't this a conflict of interest? Shouldn't it be done by an independent tester?

**A** That will be for FBC to judge. They have a contract to supply cables to National Grid. We are happy to look at any sources of testing. It will be down to the Planning Committee to assess the credibility of the tests. National Grid must convince the Planning Committee that the testing will stand up to public scrutiny and most importantly tenant scrutiny.

**Q** If tests are unsatisfactory will you stop the project?

**A** Yes

**Q** Open space might be an ideal place for travellers to settle. What mitigation will you put in place to stop this?

**A** We will do whatever we can do to ensure it is secure.