

I attended the Meeting this afternoon at Discovery Centre and this is a summary of my presentation and an update from information learnt there.

Adrian Smith [REDACTED]

1. There are many reasons why this project shouldn't go ahead relating to the destruction of the habitat in this SSSI and unsuitability of the area for such a project. There are experts in both fields far more knowledgeable than I, so I will leave the details to them.

2. The way that National Grid seem to go about the project seems to be underhand, for example exploratory work in the area seems not to be associated with them and applied for by a barrister.

3. When National Grid were required to post notices with regard to the plan and hearings such as this, they are posted at on the most isolated points within the postcode, such as alleyways, gates to fields, etc.. It appears they are ticking boxes and advertising in the least populated areas. There was not a single notice on the Village notice boards where the population would see them.

4. This seems to be a further phase of Operation Nemo which was set up to transfer power between Mainland Europe and the UK. A smaller project to start with, so as not to alarm. Now we are no longer members of the EU, I presume energy flows are regulated by HMRC?

5. There have been a number of different estimates of the amount of sand/aggregate that will be needed to make the site suitable for building upon. Apparently this will come from The Goodwin Sands which I understand is a war grave area. Presumably this will ship in via Ramsgate harbour and need to be stored somewhere, potentially the old Hoverport which has been rewilded over a number of years.

For every 1000 tonnes of aggregate/sand there will be the following number of HGV journeys:-

44 tonne articulated 35

Rigid tippers 50

1 journey to the storage site laden, 1 out empty.

1 Journey to the storage site empty, 1 out laden to site.

So 1000 tonnes will necessitate between 140 and 200 HGV trips.

The disruption for everyday life caused by the vehicular movements will go on for years until the project is completed, caused damage to unsuitable roads and untold misery for residents, and could be as many as 100 journeys per day over a 4 year period, this will cause intolerable traffic problems in an already difficult area through Minster Village.

In context the estimate for this, if you believe the National Grid figure is 360000 tonnes of aggregate/sand so between 50400 and 72000 trips according to the type of vehicle used. Over a 4 year period between 50 and 72 trips per day based on a 5 day working week over a 50 week period per year, on the assumption they are spread equally, which I am sure the weather and tides will have something to say about.

The use of the old Hoverport road is interesting, given that the only HGV ever on the road would have been during construction and in those days were a maximum 32 tonnes. I wonder how the road will cope with a constant flow of 44 tonnes!