

I would like to start with my comments and observations about how the National Inspectorate have conducted these hearings. Whilst the people who greet us, sign us in and look after 'accessibility' matters like hearing-loops etc have been helpful, the Inspectorate panel members themselves have come across at times as dismissive, inconsistent and increasingly biased in favour of The Applicant. We've witnessed rare, but perfectly understandable, healthy and ordinary emotional reactions like very occasional clapping for example, (eg: following the farmers legal representative Mr Coney's passionate presentation after hearing farmer Anne Mason's story), being silenced. By way of contrast, individuals present on behalf of The Applicant can be seen regularly grinning and laughing amongst themselves in a manner that can only be described as cavalier and disrespectful, whilst Fylde residents are speaking about the serious, and sometimes potentially life threatening impact of all this on them. Another example of this was when the increased potential for birdstrikes were mentioned at the hearing back in April and [REDACTED] dismissed the individual who raised it for using, 'emotive language', whilst members of her team sniggered beside her. There have been other examples of this kind of unacceptable behaviour throughout the hearings, all of which have gone unchecked.

During the most recent hearing an attempt was also made by the NI chair to shut down the SABIC representative who was speaking remotely about the extreme danger of carrying out these works close to the ethylene CTAP pipeline, which we're aware, could explode like a bomb if sufficiently aggravated during the project work. Why on earth would such an important cautionary presentation be cut short?!

Similarly the jeering following the disgraceful lack of compassion shown by The Applicant's legal representative [REDACTED] to both Anne Mason and Mr Coney, was again perfectly understandable and did not need to be edited out of the recording, rendering said recording inaccurate. Expecting people to show no emotion when confronted with such stories of atrocious behaviour on the part of The Applicant is inhumane and unfair and it should be noted that this took place during hearings which opened with The Applicant taking a good 45 mins, (while we were told time was tight), to explain why that hadn't done things they had been told and were obligated to do. They were, during that 45 mins, unable to share significant information, provide suitable levels of detail nor answer important and pertinent questions. To turn up to a hearing so ill prepared was incomprehensible and to allow this amount of time to be spent on their excuses, unforgivable. The Applicant's legal representative should have been curtailed by the NI chair after 5 minutes of this. I think the NI reps who make up these hearing panels, particularly those who chair them, need to be much fairer and more balanced and humane when conducting them.

Moving on, my second request is that given the number of significant changes and amendments the applicants are making to their original application, the consultation period needs to be extended by at least another 3 months to allow for stakeholders to fully digest the implications, and for further accompanied inspections to take place. I hereby make a formal request for this and if refused, a comprehensive written explanation as to why.

I think we are all in agreement that the applicant is attempting to gain permission for a project they themselves do not fully understand. The continued inadequacy of answers being proffered to reasonable questions is as embarrassing as it is disturbing. My third point of concern is therefore, as we've been told that a huge project of this nature, being carried out by two separate companies is unprecedented, it's clear that we, the people of the Fylde are to be little more than guinea pigs. Whilst this is a scandal in itself my further point is that it's reasonable for people to assume that this confusion and lack of experience and detail from The Applicant as a result of this fact will almost certainly spill over into the project itself. It's therefore likely that the project will either collapse and/or run out of funds before it's been completed. Stakeholders therefore need to see a very clear and tangible contingency plan that can be actioned in the event of this happening. Such a plan will similarly be needed if and when there is a change of Government and the project is stopped.

I would like to also mention the Equality Impact of this proposed project on the residents of the Fylde. Fylde has an elderly population, (60+), of 26.9% (compared to 18.7% nationally) and as such these proposals would impact disproportionately on a group of people with a protected characteristic under the Equality Act.

I would, as a retired teacher who initially trained as a Psychiatric Nurse, also like to flag the issue of mental health. Local families are becoming increasingly worried, scared and anxious about the impact of 11/13 years of dust, filth and noise on their children's health, development and wellbeing. It is a key topic of conversation in these parts and of course, the children themselves will and do pick up on this.

It doesn't help that Lytham St Anne's Local Nature Reserve and St Anne's Junior Football club and Skatepark will be casualties of this project and that we are to witness our sand dunes being demolished in part and the popular Starr Gate beach closed for 3/5 years. All of these things particularly impact on children.

Local parents, carers and teachers along the Fylde have reported local children becoming withdrawn, sleeping badly and experiencing panic attacks as they develop abnormally high levels of agitation and anxiety amidst all of this. With this in mind, we are all aware that in a real life context the timing of these proposals would mean that a local 5 year old child starting school in the Sept of the year this project starts, would be subjected to this terrible environment until they are at least 16 years old ... so that's for the entirety of their remaining childhood. So that's eleven or more years growing up on a noisy, filthy, hazardous building site, watching local wildlife being destroyed around them, worrying about planes falling out of the sky, dodging juggernauts and backed up traffic on the way to school and witnessing heavy machinery trundling up and down the coastal road and along the beach, potentially, 12 hours a day 6.5 days a week.

The families in particular whose land, homes and livelihoods are to be impacted by the proposed location of the substations are living in a state of shock and utter bewilderment, that these permanent concrete monstrosities, buzzing morning, noon and night for evermore, can be forced upon them in times where we are simultaneously claiming as a society to passionately value good mental health and hold human rights in high regard - not just in our own country it has to be said, but claiming to be advocates, setting an example to others across the world, in this respect. It would be laughable it wasn't so serious and so terrifying.

I want to go on record as someone with a lifetime of mental health expertise who predicted and warned you in August 2025 that should this project go ahead you will likely be responsible for a catastrophic, community wide mental health crisis along the Fylde, as people's lives descend into chaos. I don't have to spell out what the outcomes of such a crisis would be for our most vulnerable and seriously impacted and I sincerely hope that The Applicants have good levels of surplus back up finance for the law suits that will likely follow.

If it is not possible to stop this terrible, dangerous and unwanted project, I urge you to reroute these cables through one of

the more suitable routes that have been suggested by stakeholders, to also extend the consultation period by at least three months and to carry out a proper Equality Impact Assessment and mental health review in collaboration with local schools, care homes, hospitals and residents groups. I would also like to be assured that there will be a series of full and thorough investigations carried out and subsequent reports shared with all stakeholders relating to how work being conducted close to the CTAP pipeline will be managed from a safety perspective, how the potential for increased bird strikes around Blackpool Airport and Warton Aerodrome will be mitigated, what remedial works will be carried out to prevent flooding around the Starr Gate area as a result of damage to the dunes and the short, medium and long term impact on local roads particularly around Squires Gate, an area which is reported to already experience a disproportionate amount of road traffic accidents. I would also like to know what compensation is to be offered to local residents should The Applicant be successful in their bid to realise this project. Thank you.