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East Boldre Parish Council response to Solent CO2 Pipeline public consultation ending on 30 September 2024

In 100 words or less, please provide a summary of why you selected your preferred corridor (ranked one).

We feel strongly that it is inappropriate to be asked to rank these options. EBPC respect neighbours and should not be put in a position to make judgments that impact local communities on the IoW. Alternatives that avoid the need to go across open (and often protected) countryside should be put forward and shared publicly.

Do you have any other comments about the Mainland consultation corridor option?

The New Forest National Park has the highest level of protection status that is possible, reflecting its unique habitats and biodiversity. 56% of the National Park is designated for its national or international nature conservation value.

Like other public bodies, East Boldre Parish Council remains unclear on how sustainability objectives will be met, how the carbon credits will be apportioned and the reliability and safety of this new technology. Is the pipeline necessary or is it, at least in part, a profit-making interest.

In giving approval for such development across internationally important conservation areas such as the New Forest, a new precedent could be set for allowing future commercial and non-commercial development. For the parish council, protecting its uniqueness of the Forest, its local community, cultures, traditions and wellbeing are paramount.

The mainland corridor passes through the New Forest National Park, SSSIs, and internationally protected conservation areas. It would cross several rivers, roads and a

railway line and is significantly longer than the other two options. Noting all of the above, a) cost will be more, b) construction will take significantly longer, c) disruption during construction will be much greater, c) the potential for environmental damage is hugely significant.

As mentioned above, we question why this pipeline is being considered before the value of Carbon Capture (CC) has been established and proven. How will this scheme be different? No assurances are offered that CC will not be used to offset further oil production that creates ultimately more CO₂. EBPC suggest that some the more advanced 13 pipeline proposals in the UK are allowed to establish and be evaluated before any development in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight is considered.

It is known that ExxonMobil will sell space in the pipeline. Will there be imports to the Fawley terminal from other parts of the UK? Is the pipeline solely for UK use? If it were to proceed, what are the implications of transporting CO₂ to the pipeline for the existing transport infrastructure?

Do you have any other comments about the Isle of Wight North to South consultation corridor option?

It is immoral to ask individuals and bodies such as local councils to comment on proposals that would adversely affect other communities and countryside.

Do you have any other comments about the Isle of Wight North to West consultation corridor option?

It is immoral to ask individuals and bodies such as local councils to comment on proposals that would adversely affect other communities and countryside.