

Object to Proposal

Application number: 14/3732/FUL

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Comment type: Object to Proposal

Comment:

Application Ref: 14/3732/FUL Comments on the Hydro Electric power plans

Zac Goldsmith as quoted by Steve Jarvis the MD of the Ham Hydro scheme said it will:

1. Promote community cohesion

- It is interesting that the scheme has been developed by businessmen from the Ham side of the river, which will not be involved with any of the drawbacks of the scheme, unlike the Teddington side.

- At the meeting I attended the emphasis on community is expressed on the website:

Every individual in the community will have the opportunity to invest in the project.

I had the impression it was very much a money-making scheme under the umbrella of renewable energy.

- The only "cohesion" I have experienced is that of Teddington residents who are opposed to the scheme for many good reasons. Whilst the scheme might make money for some, what about the impact on house values of neighbouring properties?

- NB What about the development of the Teddington Studio site?

2. (be) A pioneering scheme which will provide local employment?

- I have not found any further details on this doubtful statement.

3. Provide environmental benefits?

- This must refer to the small amount of electricity which will feed into the national Grid as stated on the HH website: The annual yield is projected to amount to 1.9GWh, i.e. 1,900,000 units of electricity supplied to the national grid.

- Despoiling part of Teddington Weir cannot be considered an environmental benefit.

as Andrew Frieze of the Green Party says: "the visual impact will be great?. He also says the noise "will be much less disruptive than the planes flying over? (!)

The planes do stop at night, the HH plant will not. Although like the Wind farms there cannot be a guaranteed continuous output.

There are numerous other factors, which those with more experience can address, such as the possible impact on flooding. Last year was the closest I have come to flooding in the 53 years at my address. Richmond Council had to give out hundreds of sandbags to local houses near Broom Road.

Health and Safety of River Users. Hopefully a rigorous review has been done on this topic by now unlike the meeting I attended when it was admitted that it had not. Just a short distance upstream there are sailing, canoeing, rowing and sea scout clubs apart from all the other river traffic.

Finally: Surely we cannot have Green Energy at any cost. Generating the small equivalent annual energy for 500 homes is not a good enough reason for all the disadvantages involved.

NB. Re: the 500 homes. It is almost implied and believed by some that local houses can benefit from this energy directly.

As Andrew Frieze says "this is a fantastic and imaginative idea to utilise water to create electricity for the surrounding area".

To repeat from the HH website: "electricity supplied to the national grid" not the surrounding area.

Anne Humphrey