

Statement for Hlf1 Enquiry

On July 18 the properly constituted Planning and Regulation Committee refused the Hlf1 Planning Application by 7 votes to 2. Then on the September 27 a second OCC Planning Committee met to doublethink the previous decision.. OCC now take a 'neutral' position for this imposed enquiry. It is relevant that Bristol County Council in a high court appeal has been instructed by Judge Paul Mathews that its lawyers cannot be bi-partisan and must decide which side of the fence they are on. OCC are both in favour of bio-diversity and dis-encouraging car use while promoting the Hlf1 to increase car use and emissions in a green belt on a flood plain.

From the perspective of East Hendred Parish Council, the connection of the HIF1 to the Milton Interchange will cause further overloading of the interchange. This will lead to longer tailbacks for the increasing A417 traffic from the large Kingsgrove development in Wantage. Already this causes traffic flow stalling of the A34 North at the interchange in rush hour. East Hendred Parish Council, through experience, has No Faith in OCC Highways limited modelling with pre-pandemic data which did not include data from Wantage traffic flow.

OCC latest financial report of 2022 lists capital borrowing cost of £65 million. OCC announced a budget shortfall of £11.2 million in December yet here it is funding a legal team for a protracted enquiry of its own instigation.

The JET project is now shut down after a tritium / deuterium burn which will have activated the facility. I visited it in 1983 with my father, forty years ago. As a means of power generation JET is a failure. Fusion power will not be developed in my lifetime or my daughter's lifetime. However I did work with Dounreay on fast fission. Fast fission generated 130 Megawatts of electrical power for a number of years, yet we failed to develop it.

Meanwhile temperatures rise and the Greenland Icecap and Antarctic sea ice continues to melt. November, December and January have given the highest sea temperatures ever and the implications of this are very serious. So we should not be adding further carbon dioxide to the atmosphere by extended road development for petrol powered cars.

Mark Beddow EHPC
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