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1 February 2020

John Pettigrew, FEI FIET
Chief Executive
National Grid
National Grid House
Warwick Technology Park
Gallows Hill
Warwick
CV34 6DA

Dear Mr Pettigrew

National Grid tunnelling in Loughborough Junction, south London

The Loughborough Junction Action Group, a local social action charity working in the Loughborough Junction area of south London, is concerned and dismayed by the actions of National Grid in Loughborough Junction.

This community, more than any other in London, is about to be severely impacted by work which National Grid is due to carry out at the Bengeworth Road works owned by UK Power Networks.

Large quantities of spoil from National Grid's tunnelling works under Coldharbour Lane for the London Power Tunnels II project are to be removed from the Bengeworth Road works through a network of local residential streets which are not designed to carry HGVs. Your own travel plan submitted with your application to Lambeth Council for a Certificate of Lawful Development estimates these roads will be used for the next 5 years, with up to 120 lorry journeys a day at the peak. This is totally unacceptable and an alternative solution needs to be found immediately.

John Pettigrew
National Grid

1 February 2021

We are also extremely concerned that the community was given so little notice of National Grid's plan to build 2 new electricity substations and headhouse on the Bengeworth Road site. These plans were submitted to Lambeth council on 21 December, over the Christmas break, with comments due to Lambeth council by 2 February. These buildings are extremely intrusive. They impact badly on the heritage views from Ruskin Park, and residents in Southwell Road are rightly questioning, and have found serious errors in, your surveyor, Mott MacDonald's Daylight and Sunlight Impact Assessment. While we recognise that these works are designed to keep the lights on in south London we question the lack of consultation over these proposals which are going to so adversely affect our community. We request that National Grid immediately withdraw its application for Lawful Development to allow for a proper consultation. Ideas being discussed locally are whether the two sub-stations could be partially buried or whether a more imaginative architectural solution could be found, perhaps with an architectural competition.

In addition Loughborough Junction has been affected by more Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPO) for London Power Tunnels II than any other area in London and we would be grateful for information about how any disputes are being resolved and whether they will have a long-term impact on property prices in the area.

We notice National Grid's commitment to the communities in which it works. You state on your website "Business needs to stand for something more than simply profitability. Now, more than ever, we have a responsibility to demonstrate our contribution to society more broadly. At National Grid we're committed to being a responsible business in everything we do. It's enshrined in our purpose – to Bring Energy to Life."

With this in mind, we appeal to you to commit to a meaningful dialogue with the community of Loughborough Junction about these very rushed through plans.

Yours sincerely

Anthea Masey
Chair
Loughborough Junction Action Group
07799 621 582