



WARBURTON PARISH COUNCIL

To: Hynet North West Hydrogen Pipeline

This letter is the response of Warburton Parish Council to the recent consultation sessions and your published material for the Hynet Hydrogen Pipeline (in order to meet your closing timing for this stage of consultation) following our own consultation with residents.

In summary we strongly oppose the siting of a HAGI, as proposed, on the site at the end of Carr Green Lane and bordering Dunham Road in Warburton.

We feel strongly that this is Green Belt land that should be protected from industrial development. We suggest you identify an alternative brown field site or consider re-engineering your pipeline such that this HAGI is not required.

We see absolutely no benefit to the residents and community of Warburton for this planned development but envisage considerable environmental damage and suffering to the community associated with it.

Green Belt

Warburton has a Neighbourhood Development Plan being prepared, two consultation sessions with residents have already been held and it will be finalised and adopted in 2023.

One of the fundamental objectives for the community in our Plan (which has been endorsed by residents) is to protect and enhance green spaces and particularly to protect the Green Belt.

The proposed HAGI is adjacent to the Trans-Pennine Trail footpath and we consider it will have significant landscape and visual impacts both on that route and to the surrounding area.

Your planned development is incompatible with our Plan.

Impact on Residents

Consultation.

We believe that your consultation approach has not been rigorous and many residents feel that they have not been engaged in the process and that significant detail in the plan has not been provided, adequately explained or highlighted. You appear to have assumed that only residents within a certain distance of the pipeline need to be consulted, whereas we consider that all those effected by the construction traffic (which is most of the village) should also have been consulted.

Negative effect on business

Several agricultural businesses will be adversely affected and some consider that the damage to their businesses will be irrecoverable given the timescales envisaged for the development.

Negative impact on residents and their homes

Many residents' homes will be blighted by this development in terms of its effect on the physical landscape, the disruption and potential damage caused during the lengthy planned period of construction. In particular, we consider the need to transport heavy equipment and materials through our extended village to gain access to the proposed site (including the Warburton Conservation Area) with its many listed and historic buildings which are vulnerable to vibration and subsidence problems to be a major problem.

We also believe that the health and safety risks associated with such volatile materials in the proposed HAGI in close proximity to homes is a major factor which will result in loss of property values.

Environmental impact

We note that the pipeline route selected will have many negative impacts on the local environment, most seriously the damage to Warburton Moss which is a significant contributor to carbon capture, but also to our diverse wildlife habitat.

Traffic congestion

The village of Warburton is connected by many narrow country lanes and is experiencing serious traffic management issues related to the mixed nature of road users (car, trucks, buses, bicycles, horses, farm equipment) and unmanageable speed limitations resulting in accidents and fatalities. The movement of industrial materials with the intensity planned will cause significant additional traffic problems especially given the limited access to the identified site.

Hydrogen Technology

We note the considerable reservations being discussed about the role of hydrogen in the mix of future fuel alternatives, especially regarding “blue” hydrogen. We also note that one of the reasons for selecting the site on Carr Green Lane is its proximity to the existing AGI for natural gas and the opportunity to blend both gases. However as your documentation states

“A decision on blending hydrogen and natural gas, in relation to the use of Hydrogen for heating, is to be made by the UK government in the future”. Consequently we do not believe that this is a significant factor in the location of the HAGI and that consideration should be given to locating the HAGI on a brownfield site in Carrington or elsewhere.

If at some undetermined time in the future blending is permitted then natural gas can still be accessed from the existing site.

Yours sincerely,

R N Jones
Carr Green Farm
Carr Green Lane
Warburton
Cheshire
WA13 9UL