



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Kington Seymour Parish Council

14 October 2024

Dear Friends,

Re: EDF's Proposed Salt Marsh

I have been contacted in recent days by a number of constituents who have shared with me their concerns regarding EDF's proposals. My constituents are concerned about what these proposals might mean for the effectiveness of the flood defences surrounding Clevedon, an area already prone to flooding. My constituents are concerned about treasured and irreplaceable historic relics such as the Roman seawall being damaged. My constituents are concerned about the heavy handiness of EDF threatening farms going back generations with Compulsory Purchase Orders. But above all my constituents are concerned that they are being left in the dark. That they are being shut out of the conversation. That EDF, the EA and other powerful organisations are deciding their fates with naught a whisper heard from the locals whose lives and livelihoods would be very much so affected.

Having looked at the proposals myself I cannot help but think EDF is purposefully seeking to waste our time in the hopes the Government might drop the mitigation measures required in their original planning permission. Having suddenly decided that the Acoustic Fish Deterrent everyone had previously agreed upon is now "unworkable" EDF has already tried unsuccessfully to turn the Site of Special Scientific Interest near Pawlett Hams into a salt marsh.

They have now turned their gaze upon our neck of the woods in the hopes our resolve will prove weaker! Frankly, i'm bewildered how EDF can think the EA will stand by while they deliberately weaken flood defences. How they can think Historic England won't have a thing or two to say about damaging a piece of our Roman heritage. How they can think North Somerset Council will be fine with the new pier-to-pier path from Weston-Super-Mare to Clevedon, a path both myself and my honourable friend Tessa Munt were proud to open shortly after the election, being rendered unusable. EDF clearly aren't familiar with this area or its people if they think we aren't every bit up to the challenge of stopping a proposal so clearly at odds with sensibility and which threatens farms and rural communities going back generations and whose contributions are the lifeblood of North Somerset.

Next week I shall be meeting with the Environment Agency Wessex Area Director and will be asking for his view on this proposal and making my concerns regarding the flood defences clear. Additionally, I am in the process of seeking a meeting with EDF to ensure the views of my constituents are being heard, their feedback is taken into account, and above all that the shocking lack of communication which has so far defined this ordeal is rectified moving forward. Finally, I hope in the coming weeks to meet with Clevedon Town Council to discuss how we can work together to protect Clevedon residents who might be affected by this proposal. I look forward to working closely with my honourable friend Tessa Munt on this issue and with the numerous other Members of Parliament who are affected by similar proposals in their constituencies.

Yours sincerely
Sadik Al-Hassan
Member of Parliament for North Somerset