



Community Project Liaison Group (PLG) Coastal

4th February 2021, 12noon – 1.30pm

Attendees:

Name	Organisation
Chair – Paula Seager	Natural PR
Chris Tomlinson - Development & Stakeholder Manager	Rampion 2
Eleri Wilce – Consents Manager	Rampion 2
Cllr Alison Sharples	Bognor Town Council
Cllr Colin Humphris	Climping Parish Council
Cllr John Gunston	East Preston Parish Council
Cllr Glen Hewlett	Felpham Parish Council
Colin Hannon	Lancing Parish Council
Cllr Ian Buckland	Littlehampton Town Council
Joe Lake	Middleton-on-Sea Parish Council
Cllr Graham Amy (Mayor) also badger protection group	Newhaven Town Council
Cllr Ron White	Peacehaven Town Council
Elizabeth Marogna	The Littlehampton Society
Cllr Roger Dear	Bersted Parish Council
Cllr Valerie Masson	Kingston Gorse Parish Council
Note taker – Ruth Chapman	Natural PR

Apologies:

Name	Organisation
Keith Buckenham	Kingston Parish Council
Caroline Spencer	Pagham Parish Council
Cllr Graham Holden	Yapton Parish Council

Meeting summary:

Item 1. Project Update:

This Coastal Community Project Liaison Group (PLG) brings together local interest groups to allow for the sharing of information, discussion and feedback with the Rampion 2 project team about the developing proposals for the Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm.

The Rampion 2 team presented the initial proposals for the wind farm expansion project off the Sussex coast which could create clean, renewable electricity to power over one million homes in the UK, reduce carbon emissions by around 1.8 million tonnes per year and create green sector jobs and investment.

The initial proposals have been publicised in a Virtual Village Hall – an online public consultation platform - allowing the wider Sussex community to review the information and feedback any specific local concerns.

The presentation showed the offshore Area of Search, which will enable up to a maximum of 116 new wind turbines to connect to the National Grid at Bolney, via an underground cable route from landfall at Climping Beach. Since the first meeting, key progress had been made on the onshore elements of the project, with an indicative cable route and options being presented, alongside three substation search areas at the northern end of the route. The presentation also included work that had progressed on technical and environmental surveys and a review of consultation feedback to date, which was being used to help refine the proposals and produce the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR).

Formal public consultation on the refined proposals and PEIR will take place in summer 2021, prior to the submission of final proposals which will form the basis of the development consent application, planned to be submitted in late 2021. If consent is awarded, construction would begin 2025/26 at the earliest, with a view to having a completed, operational project before the end of the decade, contributing to Government targets to secure clean energy supplies and tackle climate change.

The Virtual Village Hall which includes detailed maps and a fly through of the indicative cable route and options, as well as the opportunity to feedback to the project team, can be viewed at www.rampion2.com.

A copy of the presentation is attached and any local issues and concerns within these areas can be shared with the project team for consideration as they develop their draft proposals.

Item 2. Update on stakeholder engagement

The Rampion 2 team has been meeting with statutory groups, having early discussions with Local Planning Authorities, South Downs National Park Authority, Marine Management Organisation, Natural England, Historic England and other national bodies. They have also met with many inland and coastal MPs, parish councils and local authorities (at both official and member level).

January 14th 2021 saw the successful launch of a Virtual Village hall, an online public consultation that allowed Rampion to showcase their proposals in line with Covid-19 restrictions. The online consultation is available for viewing until 11th Feb 2021 and has received favourable press coverage, allowing a wide audience to engage with the plans. Over 5,500 people have visited the Virtual Village Hall so far, with many sharing the link.

126 people have provided feedback to date, mostly from coastal communities. About 23% of the responses have been negative in nature, 34% positive and 43% neutral. All feedback received will be considered, even that which arrives after the closing date of the online exhibition. **Post meeting note:** Feedback was received from around 300 individuals or organisations by the closing date.

Item 3 – Feedback on project overview

Raised by	Point raised	Project response
Visual and area		
CH - Climping Parish Council	Are you aware of the archaeological investigation in the Climping area? A civil survey has uncovered extensive archaeological finds and the process of trenching was due to begin in January, delayed because of Covid-19.	Yes, we are working closely with Geophysical survey specialists on the cable route around Climping as part of a larger commitment to include a formal programme of observation and investigation. The Rampion 2 team have already received comprehensive details from West Sussex County Council and once construction and exploratory surveys begin, a Written Scheme of Investigation will be produced, and an archaeologist will be invited to provide a watching brief where appropriate
CH - Climping Parish Council	Where are you likely to make the connection between offshore and onshore, how will it affect the flood plain and how will you avoid disruption in the village as road access is limited?	Rampion 2 propose to make the connection behind the beach in agricultural fields. We are very aware of the flood risk and have worked on a plan with the Environmental Agency to mitigate that risk, using horizontal drilling from the flood plain out to the sea. In terms of access to this point, it is part of our commitment, listed in the Commitments Register, to avoid unnecessary impact to existing dwellings. We plan to stay outside the village entirely and may even look at temporary access routes to prevent disruption.
CH - Climping Parish Council	Why does the wind farm need to be in the south if the whole country feeds off the National Grid? Surely it makes more sense to build bigger turbines over larger areas in the North Sea, where they are not in view.	<p>We do all use the National Grid and many wind farms off the British coast feed into it, some much closer to land than Rampion 1 and 2. CT showed a map of the wind farms around the UK. There are 40+ offshore wind farms around the UK but only one off the south coast: Rampion. Yet the southeast is one of the most populated regions in Europe and therefore has an exceptionally high electricity demand. The majority of UK offshore wind farms, either operating or under construction, are off the east coast in the North Sea.</p> <p>It is sensible to build in the south where the electricity demand is high. It also makes sense to build off the Sussex Coast because west of the Isle of Wight there is the Jurassic Coast, water depths off Devon and Cornwall are too deep and if we travel east from Sussex, the English Channel narrows and the shipping is too congested.</p>
EM – The Littlehampton Society	The substation is noted as covering 11 acres. What site will that be and how will that affect Climping? How long will all the equipment be on site?	We are currently exploring three potential sites for the substation in our Area of Search, which you can see shaded in grey on page 9 of the presentation. All of them are based around the Bolney area but only one is

		<p>required, within which the permanent substation equipment would require 4.5ha.</p> <p>Climping would not be affected. The works in Climping will be temporary underground works only, with no permanent above-ground structures. After construction, all works will be buried and the land made good.</p>
Socio-economic		
IB – Littlehampton Town Council	Has there been any effect on fish stocks following Rampion 1 that need to be noted as part of Rampion 2 plans?	There is no specific evidence from Rampion 1 that there has been any effect on fish stock. In fact, our post-construction fish ecology surveys from Rampion 1 have seen an increase in fish, particularly black bream.
Environmental and ecological		
GH - Felpham Parish Council	Is the offshore cable for Rampion 1 fully underground and is that the plan for Rampion 2?	Rampion 1's existing offshore cables are largely buried to their target depth of 1m and minimum depth of 0.5m. Where this was not able to be achieved in very hard ground, shallow buried cables are protected with rock berms. Our aim is to bury as much of the cabling as we can for Rampion 2, but where the site does not allow this, we will protect the cables. When we do this, fishermen and environmental agencies are informed so that they are aware of the locations.
IB – Littlehampton Town Council	Are you stating that by drilling under Climping beach you are not going to be contributing to any kind of flood defence?	Rampion 2 are not categorically saying yes or no to contributing to flood defences. We are in discussions with environmental agencies about the sea defences and flood risk and the horizontal drilling is to mitigate damage to the beach.
GA – Newhaven Town Council	Have you used Lidar for walkover and do you plan to employ an archaeologist if / when work begins?	Yes, the walkover helped us to understand the potential geophysical and topographical constraints. Once we have put together a written scheme, we will have a full watching brief.
GA – Newhaven Town Council	Are you going to need badger licenses and will you be putting in artificial setts like in Rampion 1?	We don't need to get badger licenses at the moment as the cable route is still being refined. We are working with licensed ecologists to check routes and we will do our best to avoid badger populations. Once a route is agreed, we will get any necessary licenses, avoiding setts where possible and placing artificial setts if necessary.
EM – The Littlehampton Society	People in the Littlehampton area are dedicated to ecology and we have many nature reserves and marine conservation zones that could be impacted by Rampion 2. We have lots	<p>We are currently undertaking wintering bird surveys including in and around the Arun and we are consulting with numerous agencies, e.g., Sussex Wildlife Trust, Natural England and the RSPB agree methodologies for assessment.</p> <p>If you'd like to submit any information regarding particular species, we will provide it</p>

	<p>of birds migrating and our two entomology experts that live in the area, are concerned about migration routes for birds, butterflies and moths; the impact of the sound of the drilling and pile driving, as well as the turbines themselves. If we did our own independent assessment, could we compile it and add it to your Environmental Assessment?</p>	<p>to our ecologists, and any data would be gratefully received.</p>
<p>Planning and development</p>		
<p>CH - Lancing Parish Council</p>	<p>I understand that the existing cable route is not suitable for Rampion 2 as you were unaware you would be building another wind farm, but will an easement be put in place for Rampion 2 so that we don't need another cable line in the future?</p>	<p>When we developed Rampion 1, we had no idea that there would be a further opportunity to increase wind energy on the Sussex coast. Consequently, Rampion 1 was designed to take the power from a 400-megawatt windfarm. It simply can't take the much greater levels that Rampion 2 will generate, so a second cable route is necessary. We will not need to consider easement for future projects as this will be the final project for Rampion in this area – we can't go further north, south, east or west due to fixed offshore constraints, e.g. shipping lanes. That is why we are scoping out a much larger area for Rampion 2 – so that we can choose the best possible site for the optimum wind farm.</p>
<p>IB – Littlehampton Town Council</p>	<p>Much of the land around Climping is owned by the Baird family. Rather than taking the cable route through the village, has there been a discussion with the Bairds about using their fields? Last year we had major flood issues to Ferry Road and Rope Walk, with water flowing up the A259. Could you come across one of those fields where flood defences have been breached?</p>	<p>We are in discussions with landowners about using their land and how we can best minimise disruption. We are also aware of the flood concerns in and around this area and are also in discussion with the Environment Agency to address these concerns and the location of the landfall.</p>
<p>GA – Newhaven Town Council</p>	<p>When you build Rampion 3, will you use Pevensy Marshes or Tidemills as they are the only locations to the east that would be suitable. Councils of various groups are looking to purchase the area so that we can have a</p>	<p>We are not going to build a third Rampion project. Rampion 2 covers a large area of interest, including offshore areas as far east as off the coast of Peacehaven. If we do decide to build turbines at this easterly point of the Offshore Area of Search, the cable will still be routed onshore at Climping.</p>

	managed nature reserve and it would be helpful to know if we should leave an area for a trench?	
EM – The Littlehampton Society	Lighting did not appear in the scoping report. Do you have an idea of the impact?	Visual impact will be assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Details on this will be released as part of formal consultations later this year.
Technology / life span		
RW – Peacehaven Town Council	How long will the scheme be in place and what is the decommissioning process?	The operation design is 30 years but a new planning and consultation process could then be held to repower the scheme with the latest technology of the day, as the electrical infrastructure is sufficiently robust to accommodate a future project on the same site. As part of the application, there has to be a decommissioning plan and a financial commitment is part of this. This means that before anything is built, there has to also be a plan to remove it, so it is not just left at the end of its lifespan.
Consultation and community PLGs		
CH - Climping Parish Council	Climping PC was not listed in the presentation as a parish you've spoken to, although you have. We have also communicated information in the November and Feb edition of our newsletter to stimulate debate.	Thank you for sharing information and we will amend that in the presentation.
JG - East Preston Parish Council	Protect Coastal England have been quite vocal about their opposition – have you been in touch?	We have been in touch with Protect Coastal England and have twice asked if they want a meeting. Feedback is that they are not keen to do this until we can present a definite plan on numbers and height. We cannot do this yet.
CH - Climping Parish Council	Climping PC have also had contact from PCE.	We are still looking at the maximum design scenario, which includes turbines that are up to a maximum of 2.3 times (not 4 x) the height of Rampion 1 turbines. We are unlikely to opt for anything as high as that but need to state the worst-case scenario to ensure we don't end up consenting to a project for turbines that are no longer available in the market place. We have also committed to 116 as the maximum number of turbines we will install, and it may be less than that. The larger they are, the less we need to maximise output for the project. Part of the decision-making process is to balance out an industry-wide view with our environmental impact

		assessments in order to make the right choice of turbines.
JG - East Preston Parish Council	Thank you for the online updates – they have been very informative – but I am concerned about the high number of parishioners who don't have access to internet. How can you engage with them? Can you put anything in the post?	We are happy to post copies when someone requests it and have made a point of saying at the Virtual Village Hall that there is an option to email or phone Chris if a hard copy is needed. We can also send the information via email as a PDF, which is preferable to printing hard copies. Hopefully by the time it comes to the formal consultation we will be able to meet with people, particularly the hard-to-reach groups, in person.
GH - Felpham Parish Council	Good presentation and it has been shared extensively on websites etc – particularly with wind energy supported by David Attenborough. Sadly, opposition is likely to be more vocal.	Thank you for your feedback.
CH - Lancing Parish Council	Thank you for the information – it was very useful. Are you consulting Shoreham Port authority and Chichester anchorages? There are many sailing boats who like to sail around the Rampion.	Yes, we are in touch with Shoreham Port Authority and hope that Rampion 2 will make for a larger sailing circuit.
CH - Lancing Parish Council	Will we get minutes and copies of presentation?	Minutes and the presentation will be sent out by PS.
IB – Littlehampton Town Council	On Monday at the Town Council, they are planning to write to you about a public meeting for the locality, in particular Climping and Littlehampton.	Rampion's understanding is that Climping and Littlehampton are keen to organise a joint meeting when we have refined proposals and collated feedback from this informal consultation. We would be looking at May for a possible joint meeting.
JL- Middleton-on-Sea Parish Council	We have received lots of criticism about the Rampion 2 project, in particular a three-page document with imagery from someone who was keen for it to be placed on the parish council website and in the newsletter. Whilst the parish council has stepped back from taking a view until we have the final approved version from Rampion, it is our responsibility to share the views of locals and to encourage debate. We will	A lot of the criticisms are based on more than our maximum design scenario, which includes turbines that are up to a maximum of 2.3 times the height of Rampion 1 turbines and a maximum of 116 turbines. We are unlikely to build this high or install as many turbines, but we submit a worst-case scenario to allow for technology changes in the time-period of our planning and development. We want to be able to respond and benefit from new methods and equipment rather than find ourselves restricted by early figures. As a comparison, with Rampion 1 we had consent for 210m high turbines that could produce 700 megawatts. However, we

<p>CH - Climping Parish Council</p> <p>EM – The Littlehampton Society</p>	<p>be publishing the letter with a disclaimer from the parish council that this is not our view. We don't know how many people are looking at websites and news forums but we do have people reading the Middleton news.</p> <p>Climping PC has also received similar and is taking the same response to points of view. The village news is not the same as the parish views but we feel a duty to report it. There is a report due to come out.</p> <p>I couldn't find anything about height in the Virtual Village Hall.</p>	<p>ended up constructing a 400MW wind farm with turbines at 114m high – much less than the worst case that was consented.</p> <p>Please keep us aware of any posts on the website or in your newsletters so that we can do our best to address the issues.</p>
<p>GA – Newhaven Town Council</p>	<p>There has been criticism about the original trench and the impact on the landscape, which is making people wary of a new trench. Is there a way we can see a before and after image to help reassure people?</p>	<p>Yes, although immediately after construction there will be a scar, we have images that show before and after the Rampion 1 cable was laid (in the most sensitive section of the route over chalk grasslands) and this is proof that the landscape heals itself. The before and after photos are on Board 5 of the virtual exhibition.</p> <p>We have a commitment to monitor the reinstatement every year for 10 years, but the scar has already disappeared.</p> <p>We have subsequently added a before and after image of Tottington Mount to the attached presentation.</p>
<p>Other</p>		
<p>RW – Peacehaven Town Council</p>	<p>A lot of people would like to invest in this technology. Is it worth exploring whether there is opportunity to invest?</p>	<p>Whilst I think it's fantastic that people want to invest in renewable energy, it wouldn't be applicable for this project. We have 3 partners in place as part of a joint venture and this is a multi-billion-pound project – selling small shares would not work.</p> <p>There are potential options for communities keen to invest in renewable energy that might be more applicable to individuals and small groups, for example Community Energy South, who invest in community-scale renewable energy projects.</p>

Item 4. Action Points

EM – to send details of Latin names for birds that Littlehampton Parish is concerned about.

CT – to add Climping Parish Council to the slide deck as a council Rampion have spoken to.

JL / CH - Please keep CT aware of any posts on the website or in your newsletters regarding the project.

CT – to provide before and after imagery of the trench to aid understanding of the scar (in attached presentation now).

ALL – to share information with networks and encourage people to feedback at this informal consultation stage and get involved during the formal consultation in the summer.

Item 5. Next Steps

The next steps for the project are to consider all the feedback alongside technical and environmental survey results. A formal public consultation period will then begin late spring through the summer and PLG meetings will take place approximately one week beforehand to discuss the more detailed proposals that will be consulted on.

A fourth meeting will be held after the consultation, late summer/early autumn, to present consultation feedback, analysis and proposed changes to accommodate the feedback, where possible. This will amount to the final proposals which will form part of the development consent order to be submitted end September / early October. We will review a meeting schedule beyond this during the fourth meeting.

The project team encouraged the group to submit feedback and queries at any time either via PS or direct to CT.

Item 6. AOB

PS thanked everyone for attending. Contact details for the team to provide feedback or comments:

Chris Tomlinson – chris.tomlinson@rampionoffshore.com

Eleri Wilce – eleri.wilce@rwe.com

Paula Seager – paula@naturalpr.biz