

Objections to Rampion 2 Wind Farm Proposals

At the Parish Council meeting held on the 1st September 2021 a vote was taken with regard to the proposals for the Rampion 2 Wind Farm. Parish Councillors agreed to OBJECT and the reasons for objecting to this project are as follows. The Parish Council's objection has been submitted to the Rampion 2 Formal Consultation document response form

The Parish Council have also notified the following of its decision, RWE, Local Residents Associations, Arun District Council, West Sussex County Council, Local MP's and other Government officials with responsibility for climate change.

Parish Council's Reasons for OBJECTING to Rampion 2 Wind Farm Proposals

- The UK Government has formally declared a Climate Emergency and a 68% reduction in Greenhouse Gas emissions by 2030 and to make the UK a net zero carbon emitter by 2050. The Parish Council SUPPORTS these targets.
- **Rampion 2 Proposals** - The Parish Council has to make a decision on Rampion 2 based on the proposals that are in the Formal Consultation Document, these proposals have not been confirmed and can be amended when RWE present their proposals for examination following the responses to the Formal Consultation document. There are concerns that any amendment to the proposals will not come back to the Parish Council for consideration and it would be more beneficial if RWE agreed their final proposals now and that the Formal Consultation document be extended until more detailed information is available for the community to review

There are a number of other important factors to be considered in respect of the Rampion 2 proposals and these include

- **Area of Search** – This was defined for the scoping report but has been changed following RWE meetings with technical and environmental specialists. The area of search where the turbines will be located will only be 8 miles from the shore. This does not meet Government Guidelines in respect of offshore wind farms which should be 14-25 miles from the shore, the Prime Minister back in 2020 also made a statement highlighting the value of seascapes and the need to minimise the environmental impact with regard to wind farm projects. The Parish Council requires that the

Government Guidelines be adhered to. RWE cannot go out further than the 8 miles offshore due to shipping lanes so the Parish Council cannot accept this position and therefore **OBJECTS** on this basis and recommends that Rampion 2 be located at a site that can meet the Government Guidelines.

- **Turbines** – The same number of turbines (116) have been proposed which is the same as Rampion 1. What has not been agreed is the size of the turbine, Rampion 1 turbines consent was for a height of 210 metres with 140 metre turbines being built. With the technological improvements the proposed height of the turbines for Rampion 2 is 210-325 metres. So Rampion 2 will have much higher turbines erected by up to 1.5 times or 2.3 times than Rampion 1 with the same distance from the shore. Each turbine will also emit a red light on a 24/7 basis which at night will be seen for miles and the turbines being only 8 miles from the shore will have a significant impact on those householders who live close to the shore. The Parish Council are concerned that this level of increase in height will make the turbines more visible from the shore and it will be detrimental to the seascape, it will impact on the views for residents and tourists as well as other sites such as the South Downs National Park. It is the Parish Council position to **OBJECT** to Rampion 2 based on the height of the turbines and the visual impact they will have being only 8 miles from the shore
- **Impact on Environment** – There are a number of factors to be considered both offshore and onshore. Offshore we have much larger turbines and we do not know what effect this will have on birds having to seek new flight corridors not between Rampion 1 and now Rampion 2. What effect will it have when the turbines are being erected on the seabed and the plants and creatures that live in these waters, the loss of breeding grounds for Black Bream, Lobsters and Crabs and it is important that these are not disturbed

Onshore will see a detrimental effect on the countryside with the laying of offshore cables from Climping to Bolney, although these will be underground the initial work will affect the wildlife throughout any route it takes when finally agreed. The Parish Council **OBJECTS** to Rampion 2 based on the significant affect this will have on the environment.

- **South Downs National Park** – the proposed wind farm will be sited in an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which includes the South Downs National Park and this has the highest degree of protection in law. Approval of Rampion 1 has seen the South Downs National Park being subjected to the laying of cables for the project to meet its onshore need

and Rampion 2 proposals will see this happen again at the expense of this heritage site. There are better locations for Rampion 2 and to protect the South Downs National Park from further devastation the Parish Council sees this as a reason for **OBJECTING** to Rampion 2 proposals.

- **Tourism & Economic Impact** – Middleton-on-Sea and Elmer villages sit between Bognor Regis and Littlehampton. Both Bognor Regis and Littlehampton offer more facilities but visitors come to Middleton-on-Sea and Elmer for the sea views and the excellent quality of the sea water. The effect that Rampion 2 will have in respect of the sea views which with 116 turbines at possibly 325 metres high will be seen as a blot on the landscape and ruin the views that visitors previously had when visiting.

It is difficult to quantify the level of reduction in tourism that Rampion 2 could bring to the parish but it will have a negative effect on shops, pubs and other establishments especially if as expected that both Bognor Regis and Littlehampton show a much more significant degree of reduction in tourism which will cause a number of businesses to close. The Parish Council therefore **OBJECT** to Rampion 2 on the basis that this will be detrimental to the parish and larger towns.

- **Benefits of Rampion 1 & 2** – With Rampion 1 operational and with the benefits in terms of clean, green electricity that it provides, these benefits would increase significantly if it was located at a better site but Rampion 1 exists. It does not mean that Rampion 2 should follow on being in the wrong location, not meeting government guidelines in respect of miles offshore or the other objections raised above.

There are better sites around the UK coast where the government guidelines can be met (14-25 miles offshore) and where the increased height of the turbines are more acceptable than what is proposed in Rampion 2. The more acceptable sites are in the North Sea, Dogger Bank and off the Cornish coast. All these sites offer much better benefits in terms of increased wind strength. Rampion 2 if approved will be at a site that has much less wind so why site at a location that does not provide the most benefit to RWE in terms of investment. By locating it in the North Sea, Dogger Bank or off the Cornish Coast RWE will see significant benefits that it cannot achieve by being off the Sussex Coast, although it may be less expensive to install on the West Sussex Coast it will take longer for RWE to get a return on its investment if compared to Rampion 2 being sited in a more beneficial area. On the basis that Rampion 2

should be located in an area that can meet Rampion 2 proposals the Parish Council therefore **OBJECT** to Rampion 2

Local MP's Rejection of Rampion 2 – Recently two local MP's have issued statements opposing Rampion 2 and their reasons in the main relate to those raised above.

Rampion 2 – Formal Consultation Document Issues – RWE company policy to only have virtual meetings even after the government restrictions were lifted on the 19th July 2021 made it difficult for residents in the parish to get a clear understanding of the proposals being made and the need to answer questions to get a clear understanding of the project. It would have been useful if RWE had hired out the village hall for a day, invited ALL residents to attend and meet directly with RWE staff to look at the marketing material and ask questions.

At a recent public meeting organised by the Parish Council to discuss Rampion 2 at which RWE made a presentation of their proposals parishioners were concerned of the lack of creating public awareness and the inability to advise householders of the consultation as detailed in their Statement of Community Consultation.

The main concern related to ‘Whom Rampion would consult in the community’. Under Zone 3 of the Statement of Community Consultation this relates to the coastal area. RWE state as follows, ‘Those persons or groups whose property is within 100 metres of the Sussex Coastline between Beachy Head and Selsey Bill, and the eastern coastline of the Isle of Wight between Seaview and Ventnor’ will be consulted. It would appear that a large number of households who would be included under Zone 3 have not received any information from RWE in respect of Rampion 2 and therefore the consultation process has not met its requirements and the formal consultation deadline of the 16th September 2021 needs to be extended for a further 6 weeks to enable these householders to review the proposals for Rampion 2 and to decide if they wish to support or object to the project.