

Promoting Rampion 2 Consultations in Cowfold 2021 -22

18th January 2023

Since early 2021, Rampion 2 has developed and delivered three consultations on its project proposals, a Non-Statutory Consultation and two Statutory Consultations in accordance with the Planning Act 2008.

Section 47 of the Act requires that Rampion 2 carry out Statutory consultations in accordance with the provisions set out in a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). The SoCC sets out how, when, about what and with whom we intend to consult and what promotional measures will be used to raise awareness of the consultation. Two versions of the SoCC were consulted (one for each Statutory Consultation) with the relevant Local Planning authorities, in this case with Horsham District Council and West Sussex County Council, to ensure it meets those local authorities' requirements.

The original and updated SoCC were each published during the respective Statutory Consultations and are public documents available on our website at www.rampion2.com, links as follows:-

<http://www.rampion2.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Rampion-2-Statement-of-Community-Consultation-07062021-2.pdf>

<https://www.rampion2.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Updated-SoCC-Oct-2022.pdf>

Section 48 of the Act requires that a proposed application must be publicised as prescribed, with regulations setting out the details of the applicant and application that must be given. In addition, section 42 of the 2008 Act requires Rampion 2 to consult specified categories of people about the proposed application. These include prescribed bodies (which are set out in regulations), local authorities (with a formula for identifying the relevant authorities) and each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in section 44.

This briefing note summarises how we have adequately promoted our consultations in accordance with the proposals we set out in the SoCC, which details our overall approach to publicising consultation, developed with the support of directly affected Local Planning Authorities. It breaks down our activity into three areas, Non-Statutory Consultation, our first project wide Statutory Consultation and our most recent Onshore Statutory Consultation.

As an integral part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application, we are also required to submit a comprehensive Consultation Report, describing in detail all of the consultation activity undertaken and how these were promoted in line with the agreed requirements in the SoCC. The Consultation Report will also document the consultation feedback we received and our response to that feedback, including any changes made to our proposals as a result. As part of the application process all relevant Local Planning Authorities will be consulted by the Planning Inspectorate to confirm the consultations were carried out in line with the SoCCs.

Given recent correspondence relating to concerns in respect of how the consultations were publicised, particular emphasis has been given to s47 of the Act and the promotional activity we delivered in line with the agreed SoCCs.

Rampion 2 have held three consultations to date:-

1. **Non-statutory consultation:** 14th Jan – 11th Feb 2021. A voluntary, non-statutory consultation held over four weeks to raise awareness of the project and seek feedback on three onshore substation site search areas, including one at Oakendene (then known as Bolney Road / Kent Street);
2. **First statutory public consultation:** 14th July – 16th Sept 2021. A project-wide consultation held over 9 weeks to formally consult statutory bodies and the wider community, which also sought feedback on two remaining onshore substation search areas including Oakendene (then known as Bolney Road / Kent Street); and
3. **Second statutory public consultation:** 18th Oct – 29th Nov 2022. A targeted onshore consultation held over 6 weeks, to formally consult statutory bodies and the wider community on potential changes to our onshore cable route, only.

Rampion 2 use a range of methods to reach those who live, work and visit the area in the vicinity of our draft proposals. This document highlights the key methods that were used to promote each of the consultations.

1. Non-statutory consultation, 14th Jan – 11th Feb 2021

The methods which we used to promote this consultation in the Cowfold area include the following:-

- **Leaflets** were hand delivered to a local area, which included all homes and businesses within a 300m radius from the boundary of the three substation search areas. This included the businesses at Oakendene Industrial Estate;
- **Posters** were provided to Cowfold Parish Council to put up on their locked notice boards and artwork was emailed;
- **News coverage** promoted the consultation with major pieces on ITV Meridian, BBC South TV, BBC Sussex Radio and More Radio, with newspaper coverage in the Mid Sussex Times, West Sussex Gazette, West Sussex County Times and The Argus;
- **A Social Media awareness campaign** (Facebook and Instagram) was launched, which included Cowfold and Lower Beeding as target geographical locations; and
- **Emails** announcing the consultation were sent to key stakeholders including MPs, local authorities and parish councils, including Cowfold Parish Council, Horsham District and West Sussex County Councils. The email included a poster image to promote the consultation and encouraged the sharing of the email and/or image within the organisation and through their networks such as community newsletters, emails, websites, Facebook, Instagram or Twitter pages.

The following meetings and events were held during the consultation period:-

- **6 x Project Liaison Group meetings** were held, which included the Onshore Community PLG with Cowfold Parish Council representation at the October 2020 meeting, although they gave their

apologies for the February 2021 meeting. All invitations, presentation and minutes were emailed to Cowfold PC;

- **Stakeholder meetings** were held with MPs and local authorities in advance of the consultation in November and December 2020, including meetings with Andrew Griffith MP, Mims Davies MP, Horsham District Council and West Sussex County Council.

2. First statutory public consultation, 14th July – 16th Sept 2021

The methods which we used to promote this consultation in the Cowfold area included the following:-

- **Leaflets** were posted to promote the consultation, which is standard practice. We sent a leaflet via Royal Mail to all homes and businesses within a 3km radius of the boundaries of the two substation search areas, which picked up all properties in Cowfold with a postcode, amounting to over 800 addresses. The leaflet was posted on 12th July and would have arrived on doormats three days later;
- **Posters** were provided to Cowfold Parish Council to put on their locked notice boards and artwork provided by email;
- **Section 48 Notices** were erected on footpath signposts at both Kent Street and Wineham Lane;
- **Letters** were issued to affected parties including all landowners on land covered by our proposals plus an appropriate buffer around the two substation sites. In some instances, members of the local community would have received both the above leaflet and s42 letter;
- **News coverage** on ITV Meridian, BBC South TV, BBC Sussex Radio and More Radio with newspaper coverage in the Mid Sussex Times, West Sussex Gazette, West Sussex County Times and The Argus. Additional reminder stories were published in the press which followed towards the end of the consultation;
- **Statutory Public Notices** were placed on full pages in the Mid Sussex Times, West Sussex Gazette, West Sussex County Times and The Argus;
- **Online newspaper adverts** were published;
- **Adverts on the back and side of buses** covering country routes to Mid Sussex from West Sussex depots;
- **Social media awareness campaign** (Facebook and Instagram) including Cowfold and Lower Beeding as target geographical locations;
- **Section 48 Notices** were erected on footpath signposts at both Kent Street and Wineham Lane; and
- **Emails** promoting the consultation and the associated materials and events were sent to:-
 - Section 42 statutory consultees including landowners;
 - Local authorities that our proposals pass through and neighbouring authorities;
 - Locally elected representatives, including those from Horsham and Mid Sussex Councils;
 - Parish councils that our proposals pass through and neighbouring parishes. This included emails to the Chair and Clerk of Cowfold Parish Council on 14th July and 6th September;

- MPs, including Andrew Griffith MP (Arundel & South Downs) and Mims Davies MP (Mid Sussex);
- 'Hard to reach' groups, which in Cowfold included churches, the village hall and Allmond Community Centre;
- Other stakeholders who have registered an interest to be kept informed via our website
- Rampion 2 Expert Technical Groups; and
- Rampion 2 Project Liaison Groups (including the Onshore Community PLG with Cowfold Parish Council represented).

The following meetings and events were held during the consultation period:-

- **6 x Rampion 2 Project Liaison Group meetings** were held, which includes the Onshore Community PLG. Cowfold PC did not attend or send apologies but were emailed all invitations, presentation and minutes. The Clerk confirmed the Chair had received the invitation;
- **2 x Virtual Public Forums** on 27th July and 6th September;
- **2 x Virtual Parish Council Forums** on 28th July and 23rd August; and
- **Local Authority and Parish Council online meetings** including with West Sussex County Council and Horsham District Council.

Onshore substation decision announcement, 14th July 2022

Following our consideration of all responses to the statutory consultation and decision to locate the onshore substation at the Oakendene site, we announced the location with a press release, issued to local newspapers on 14th July 2022. A day in advance of this on 13th July, the Rampion 2 Team sent an email to announce this decision (accompanied with a press release) to local MPs including Andrew Griffith and Mims Davies, local authorities including Horsham, Mid Sussex & West Sussex and parish councils including Cowfold, Shermanbury, Bolney and Twineham. Press release link is: <https://www.rampion2.com/site-chosen-for-rampion-2-wind-farms-new-onshore-substation/>

The substation announcement was subsequently included in the Mid Sussex Times and West Sussex County Times, in addition to being in their online version, Sussexworld. BBC Radio Sussex and More Radio included the announcement in their news coverage.

Mims Davies MP also included the substation decision on her website:

<https://www.mimsdavies.org.uk/news/mims-davies-mp-update-rampion-2-onshore-electric-substation-plans> and in her column in the Mid Sussex Times in August 2022.

3. Second statutory public consultation, 18th Oct – 29th Nov 2022

Note that this consultation was specifically focussed on potential changes to parts of the onshore cable route only, with the onshore substation decision having already been announced. This was specifically targeted at those who live, work or visit the area local to the cable route and potential changes.

The methods which we used to promote this consultation in the Cowfold area included the following:-

- **Leaflets** presented the relevant information on how the public could take part in the consultation in a clear and concise manner. They were posted to promote the consultation, which is standard practice. We sent a leaflet via Royal Mail to all homes and businesses within 1km of the proposals, which picked up the majority of properties in Cowfold with a postcode. The leaflet was posted on 14th October and would have arrived on doormats three days later;
- **Posters** were sent by Royal Mail addressed to the Cowfold Parish Council Clerk (address published on Horsham DC website) and also artwork requesting them to put on their locked notice boards;
- **Section 48 Notices** were erected on footpath signposts at both Kent Street and Wineham Lane;
- **Section 42 letters** were issued to affected parties including all landowners on land covered by our proposals. In some instances, members of the local community would have received both the above leaflet and s42 letter;
- **News coverage** on ITV Meridian, BBC South TV, BBC Sussex Radio and More Radio with newspaper coverage in the Mid Sussex Times, West Sussex Gazette, West Sussex County Times and The Argus. Additional reminder stories were published in the press towards the end of the consultation;
- **Statutory Public Notices** placed in the Mid Sussex Times, West Sussex Gazette and West Sussex County Times;
- **Social media awareness campaign** (Facebook and Instagram), including Cowfold and Lower Beeding as target geographical locations; and
- **Section 48 Notices** were erected on footpath signposts at both Kent Street and Wineham Lane.
- **Emails** were sent to:-
 - Section 42 statutory consultees including landowners;
 - Local authorities that our proposals pass through, plus neighbouring authorities;
 - Locally elected representatives, including those from Horsham and Mid Sussex Councils;
 - Parish councils that our proposals pass through and neighbouring parishes. This included emails to the Chair and Clerk of Cowfold Parish Council on 17th October and 17th November
 - MPs, including Andrew Griffith MP (Arundel & South Downs) and Mims Davies MP (Mid Sussex);
 - ‘Hard to reach’ groups, which in Cowfold included churches, the village hall and Allmond Community Centre;
 - Other stakeholders who have registered an interest to be kept informed via our website
 - Rampion 2 Expert Technical Groups; and
 - Rampion 2 Project Liaison Groups (including the Onshore Community PLG with Cowfold Parish Council represented).

The following meetings and events were held during the consultation period:-

- **Consultation Events (x4)** were held along the cable route on 1st, 2nd, 11th and 12th November, with almost 600 people attending the events, including Cowfold Parish Council representation.
- **A Cowfold Public Meeting** hosted by the parish was held on 23rd November. It was promoted on the Parish Council website and via posters in the local area, which attracted around 50 attendees. Rampion Project Team members presented to the meeting and answered a wide range of questions.
- **5 x Rampion 2 Project Liaison Group meetings** were held, which includes the Onshore Community PLG with Cowfold Parish Council representation and all invitations, presentation and minutes shared with Cowfold PC.
- **Parish Councils Virtual online forum on 3rd November** which included Cowfold Parish Council representation.