

KINGSTON NEWS

“Looking After Your Interests”

Kingston Parish Council Newsletter

Issue 28, August 2021

**Message from
the Chairman**



Dear Resident,

This is an extra edition of our newsletter to let you know that Rampion 2 have opened their consultation on the proposed additional section of wind farm that will extend from Worthing to Selsey.

Council has serious concerns about the proposal that we set out in this newsletter.

We encourage every resident to look at the consultation and make their own response whether it is to support the view of Council or not.

Details of how to find information on the scheme and make your response are contained in this newsletter.

Council would be interested to know about the views you have submitted and you can see how to do this overleaf.

Do please make your views count on this important issue.

Cllr Geraldine Walker

Chairman Kingston Parish Council

OFF SHORE WINDFARM CONSULTATION

Rampion Wind Farm 2

Community Consultation ends 16 September 2021

Rampion 2 have opened the public consultation on proposals for the scheme for renewable energy that will affect our coastline. In the consultation Rampion 2 say “For the purpose of our Environmental Impact Assessment, we are assessing a worst-case scenario for up 2.3 x the existing Rampion turbine height to make sure we have consent for turbines which are available in the marketplace at the time of order.” The distance of the turbines remains at some 8 – 15.5 miles from the shore.

Council encourages all residents to look at the scheme and have their own say – to support or object - by visiting <https://rampion2.com/>

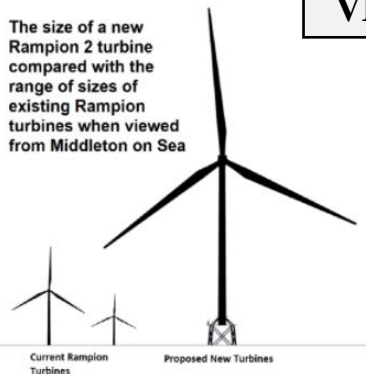
You can respond to the consultation in 3 ways: by completing the online questionnaire, by emailing Rampion2@rwe.com or by letter to: Rampion 2, Consultation Response, c/o RWE Renewables, Greenwood House, Westwood Way, Coventry CV4 8PB.

VIEW of COUNCIL

Council recognises the need to bring on stream more renewable energy but as we explained in our May newsletter, we raised concerns during an earlier consultation about various aspects of the scheme, particularly the visual and environmental impact and whether there are more suitable locations. As these concerns have not been mitigated, Council will be submitting objections (summary shown overleaf).

VIEW of PROTECT COASTAL ENGLAND

The size of a new Rampion 2 turbine compared with the range of sizes of existing Rampion turbines when viewed from Middleton on Sea



The campaign group, Protect Coastal England, are objecting to the Rampion 2 proposals, and we recommend that to see both sides of the argument you visit their website: <https://www.protectcoastalengland.org/>

For instance, they have created a series of diagrams showing the visual impact of the larger turbines (extract left) and say “the observable height ratio of the new array will actually feel 5.2 times greater.”

You will also be able to see Protect Coastal England’s view on the impact on wildlife and on the West Sussex Coast as well as information on options for other locations for the Wind Farm.

COUNCIL'S OBJECTIONS to the RAMPION 2 PROPOSALS (summary)

Following the release of the Rampion 2 draft proposal public consultation, Kingston Parish Council is disappointed that its initial concerns raised during an earlier informal consultation have not been addressed and, therefore, makes the following objections to the proposals:

1. The Location:

Whilst Council fully supports the need to bring on stream more renewable energy, wind farms need to be located with sensitivity to the amenity and landscape of the local area. There are other sites around the coast where the turbines can be set much further out to sea to reduce the visual impact such as at Dogger Bank in the North Sea and these will also benefit from increased wind strength. There is no need for a wind farm to be sited off of the West Sussex Coast to serve the local population as the power from the wind farm will be fed in to the National Grid whether it is generated off of West Sussex or in the North Sea.

2. The Visual Impact:

There will be an extremely detrimental visual effect on the seascape given:

- Rampion 2 is to be sited only some 8 miles from the shoreline - this is far too close. This is not an offshore development (i.e. more than 14 miles out), but inshore!
- the much larger sized turbines (325m – taller than the Eiffel Tower!) will have a greater visual impact than Rampion 1, during the day and when lit at night.
- the combined and extended span of Rampion 1 and 2 will unacceptably affect the seascape of an extensive part of the Sussex coastline, 'fencing' in the Sussex Bay. This will impact on the views for residents and tourists as well as views from iconic sites such as Arundel castle and the South Downs National Park

3. The Environmental Impact:

- the effect of turbines on birds, bats etc. as their safe flight corridors will be lost
- the disturbance of the seabed that will impact on the plants and sea creatures. For instance, the loss of Black Bream in our area and of breeding grounds for Lobsters and crabs.
- the effect on the countryside and its wildlife by laying offshore cables from Climping to Bolney.

4. The Economic Impact:

The sea view is cited as one of the main reasons to visit the West Sussex coastline and the proposal will affect tourism which is vital to the area and to our larger towns such as Littlehampton, Bognor and Arundel. This wind farm will damage our seaside views and beauty, deterring people attracted to visit or live here and stifling the economic benefits that visitors and new residents bring. Additionally, fishermen will be adversely affected due to the loss of breeding grounds and habitats for marine life, including crab and lobster.

How to let us know your views

To let us know the views you have submitted on the Rampion 2 Consultation:

1. Please email Cllr Roger Wetherell at roger_wetherell@hotmail.com
2. Or drop off a paper copy to one of your Councillors:
 - Cllr Keith Buckenham, Wood End, Peak Lane, BN16 1RN
 - Cllr Peter Jolly, Thatched Corners, Coastal Road, BN16 1SW
 - Cllr David Joyce, Orchard Cottage, Kingston Lane BN16 1RS
 - Cllr Karen Kenning, The Saltings, Downsview Road, BN16 1SD
 - Cllr Valerie Masson, Windy Corner, Gorse Avenue BN16 1SQ
 - Cllr Geraldine Walker, Rife Manor, Brookside Road BN16 1SE
 - Cllr Roger Wetherell, Newcote Farm, Kingston Lane BN16 1RP

This newsletter was prepared by Kingston Parish Council

Please note that future meetings of Council and its Committees are scheduled for 16 September and 18 November, commencing at 7pm in Our Lady Star of the Sea Hall, Vermont Drive, East Preston.

Val Knight, Clerk of the Council.

Website <https://kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk/>, e-mail: clerk@kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk