

KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Rampion 2 Consultation Response

Kingston Parish Council objects to the proposals for Rampion 2 based on current information.

Council first raised its concerns during the informal consultation that you held in February 2021. Now, with the formal release of the Rampion 2 draft proposal consultation, Council is disappointed that those initial concerns have not been addressed.

Council's objections and concerns are:

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 and efficiency.

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.

The location is contrary to government policy:

- It is within inshore waters and this is against the OESEA2 government guidelines that all offshore wind projects should be offshore i.e. more than 12 nautical miles (14 miles) from shore.
- It is in contrary to the OESEA3/White report which identifies that wind farms with the height of the turbines proposed should be more than 25 miles from a sensitive area such as the South Downs National Park.

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. Turbines of this size and quantity should be sited much further out to sea and not inshore.
- The much larger sized turbines (up to 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:

There will be a detrimental impact on the Environment due to:

- 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, fisherman will be adversely affected due to the loss of breeding grounds and habitats for marine life, including crab and lobster.

Val Knight
Clerk to Kingston Parish Council
(West Sussex)

14th September 2021