



**Business & Tourism Project Liaison Group (PLG) meeting: 11-1pm, Thursday 20 November 2014**

**MINUTES**

**1. Introductions**

Chair – Paula Seager, Natural PR  
Secretary – Katherine Elton, Natural PR

Chris Tomlinson - Rampion Development Manager, E.ON

Alan Brothers – Newhaven Deep Sea Anglers/RNLI Newhaven  
Rowan Wallis – Sustainable Business Partnership CIC  
Tony Mernagh – Brighton & Hove Business Forum (B&HBF)  
Tina Tilley – Worthing & Adur Chamber of Commerce  
Annie Lorys – Newhaven Chamber of Commerce

(apologies Mike Tubb – RNLI Newhaven, Noel West – Brighton Marina Boatman's Association, Alison – Sussex Enterprise)

**2. Rampion Project Update re: final project design and construction plans**

*(questions were taken from the floor during the presentation)*

Chris Tomlinson gave attendees an illustrated presentation of the Rampion Offshore Wind Farm final design. The presentation and new design slides can be downloaded from the link on the cover email.

The presentation recapped the project stages and original scope of the Rampion project. Chris gave an overview of the project's progress since the group last met in April 2013 and a timeframe for construction works.

**Offshore issues raised:**

Tony Mernagh asked how much power would be lost between the wind farm and the substation. Chris said the amount lost would be negligible.

Alan Brothers asked about the generation of noise at sea during the piling process. Chris replied that this was the subject of the Environmental Impact Assessment. He said it was unlikely that construction noise would be significant on the coast but that the main issue regarding piling was in relation to a number of consent requirements in relation to marine life and fish migration. Chris said the project team was working in consultation with ecology consultants RSK on requirements and restrictions relating to marine ecology in the project's environmental statement. He added the team was currently putting together a detailed Divers Mitigation Plan and appointing a Diving Liaison Officer.

On behalf of the RNLI, Alan asked how many additional vessel movements in and out of Newhaven Port were expected. Chris said he could not confirm at this time as it would depend on the lead contactors' construction methods which have yet to be finalised. He said it was possible that turbines and foundations would go straight to the construction site but that it may also be possible that the port would be used for laydown and storage to maximize efficiency and / or in the event of bad weather.

Alan asked whether there was a possibility that vessels would divert to Newhaven in bad weather. Chris said the Development Consent Order (DCO) required an emergency response plan to be in place. The plan would have to be agreed with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) and Trinity House.

Alan Brothers asked about the distance between the turbines and any implications this may have on shipping. Chris said the turbines would be at least 750 metres apart and there was a 50 metre advisory exclusion zone around each turbine but this could not be enforced by E.ON. Chris said most vessels would be able to travel between the turbines with the exception of large cargo vessels which MCA advise should not sail through the wind farm site and instead, use designated shipping routes.

Alan said the different species attracted to the wind farm area would provide a boost to anglers. Chris said there was anecdotal evidence of a greater diversity of species around wind farm sites and this could also add interest for divers.

Alan asked whether each turbine had its own foundations. This was confirmed by Chris. Chris added that each turbine would also show up on navigational radar and lighting would be discussed with the MCA.

#### **Onshore issues raised:**

Tina Tilley expressed concern over the possibility of extra traffic in the Brooklands area. She said it was important to inform residents in the Brooklands area as to the scope of the project. Tina said the team needed to be aware of the traffic issues on the A259 and A27, which would be used by those commuting to Shoreham, Hove or Brighton. She added that the team should look at timings of construction vehicle movements to avoid rush hour and school drop off times. Chris said the work was likely to involve 30 construction vehicles per day at peak. She requested that the Lancing Business Park should be included in future consultations or meetings and said it would be useful to see plans relating to this particular area in advance.

Chris said work in this area was likely to take 3-6 months. He said the area may only be affected by works traffic and measures would be put in place to ease congestion, such as construction vehicles not turning across the traffic flow. He said that whilst the onus would be on West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) to ensure the Business Park and other interested parties were included in the consultation, he was also very happy to meet with Tina and the Business Park representative and keep them informed to ensure issues were addressed appropriately.

Chris Tomlinson informed members that during the two-year onshore construction timeframe, most of the construction would take place in year one with year two involving rigorous testing, which would not generate significant noise or traffic.

Tina Tilley informed the group that the AGM of the Business Park was on April 29. She also suggested information boards could be placed at the Brooklands site to give residents information on the project. She suggested a permanent indicator of where Rampion's cable route came ashore underneath the ground might be considered.

#### **Business & jobs questions:**

Tony Mernagh asked the total capital cost of the project. Chris replied that it was in the order of £1bn.

Members passed comment on the final plans which resulted in a reduced visual impact from the coastline. Tony Mernagh and Tina Tilley said the final design could provide a tourism boost for the Worthing area.

Tony also asked for a clarification on the number of jobs created. Chris said the majority of construction jobs would be offshore with up to 300 in the workforce, but there would be 40 permanent staff based at the Operations & Maintenance (O&M) base at Newhaven. The cable route team would consist of 60-100 people involved in engineering and electrical construction in the first year, then testing in the second year.

Alan Brothers asked if the turbines would be made up at Newhaven. Chris said this would not be financially viable as the scale of the works required to adapt the port was too expensive to support one project. He said E.ON was currently working with Newhaven Port on port upgrades to potential support construction activities, such as providing lay down areas for equipment.

Alan asked if these upgrades could potentially lead to further employment. Chris confirmed the numbers for the project were E.ON's construction team and this number would not be reduced, so an upgrade could potentially lead to the generation of additional jobs at Newhaven.

### **3. Community benefits**

Chris said E.ON was committed to establishing a fund to benefit the community living around the substation. He said the project(s) supported by the fund would be the community's choice and but would have some high level criteria, e.g. for the benefit of the broad community, not individuals, while not compromising the integrity or reputation of E.ON and/or the Rampion project. He said the community would also have to run a consultation process to ensure community support for the project(s). It would be funded with a capital one off payment or staggered payments over 10 years.

Chris said the community benefit fund and establishment of a Visitor Centre for the Rampion Offshore Wind Farm were additional and voluntary capital projects, that went 'above and beyond' what was required from E.ON. There would be no competitive bid process for the visitor centre but authorities were free to suggest locations where the Visitor Centre might be located.

E.ON would be seeking to maximise benefit for Sussex residents while attracting the largest number of visitors to the Visitor Centre. Suggested locations would, among other things, have to satisfy the following criteria:

- accessible via public transport, walking and cycling
- high footfall from a wide demographic
- views over the sea and wind farm

Annie Lorys suggested Newhaven as the location for the Visitor Centre to link in with the new University Technical College. Tony Mernagh suggested Brighton was ideal as it had links with London.

Tony Mernagh expressed a strong interest in the Visitor Centre being located in the Brighton area.

Tina Tilley express a strong interest in the Visitor Centre being located in the Worthing area.

### **4. Actions:**

**Chris to set up a meeting on site with Tina Tilley and the Lancing Business Park and consider construction traffic implications**

**NPR to forward presentation slides to the Business & Tourism PLG representatives.**

**PLG representatives to forward details to NPR of anyone who the group felt might benefit from attending the sessions.**

**Tony Mernagh said he would be retiring shortly but B&HBF would continue to send a representative to the group.**

**PLG representatives agreed they would like to continue meeting in this way and the next meeting will be in April. NPR to send out invitations well in advance.**