

St. Mary's C. E. Primary School

Brookpit Lane, Clymping, Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5QU

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Headteacher: Justin Murray

The Governors of
St Mary's Clymping CE Primary School
Brookpit Lane
Clymping
West Sussex
BN17 5QU

23 April 2024

Dear Sir or Madam:

The governors at St Mary's Clymping Church of England Primary School would like to express our support for the stance taken by Clymping Parish Council with regard to the proposals for the onshore work plans for Rampion2 wind farm.

The governors are particularly concerned about the negative impact the onshore work will pose for St Mary's school. The health and safety of the children and their families is our top priority.

In its written representation to the planning inspectorate, Clymping Parish Council states the following (in section 3):

“... the Parish object strongly to any use of Crookthorn Lane, Brookpit Lane and Byway 197, Bread Lane as access to the work areas south of A259. The lanes are narrow with blind corners and they are simply not suitable for additional works traffic and heavy vehicles. The grass edges that are easily damaged and prone to flooding. They provide the primary driven and walking access to the primary school. There are no pavements. The limitations of the lanes are such that at busy times the school operates a voluntary one system for parents driving their children to and from school.

“Bread Lane passes directly past the school entrance and the byway is the community's primary walking route to the beach and open countryside of the Littlehampton to Middleton gap in this area. Although unrestricted it is not suitable for use by heavy vehicles.

“The Parish is pressing for an alternative dedicated route south from Ferry Road as this would be far more suitable and less disruptive.”

The governors would like to second this view.

We emphasise that Brookpit Lane and Crookthorn Lane are very narrow roads which are prone to heavy flooding, and which include blind corners. Significantly, because there are no pavements on these roads, school children and their families (including very young siblings) must walk in the roads themselves. This is hazardous at the best of times, and introducing large vehicles into the mix could be disastrous.

Furthermore, twice a day, during school drop off and pick up, vehicles park along large stretches of these roads (including the whole of Crookthorn Lane), rendering them effectively single-track routes. During these peak hours the school operates a voluntary one-way system

(travelling west from Ferry Road). Because of the large volume of vehicles involved in the school run, and because of the presence of children in the road, vehicles travelling in the opposite direction can cause significant traffic complications. Reversing and other manoeuvres pose a safety hazard for the children and their families who are on foot.

Brookpit Lane and Crookthorn Lane are also used by the school during normal school hours for pupil walks to the local church, Village Hall and other sites. Bread Lane itself is regularly used by the school for walks to the beach.

We strongly argue for an alternative dedicated route south from Ferry Road to reach the work sites south of the A259. This would significantly reduce the safety risk to the St Mary's school community.

Clymping Parish Council also request in their statement that clarity be provided "with regards the timing of daily operations and works traffic (daily start and finish times), the extent of 24-hour drilling operations and the overall timescales envisaged for what is referred to as a 'temporary' construction phase. All these factors could impact the daily lives of residents and negatively impact to local natural environment. We have yet to see a detailed construction management plan. We have also yet to see the steps the applicant plans to take to mitigate the impacts on the community and local environment."

The negative impacts that residents will experience will also apply to St Mary's School, and even more so if operational vehicles travel in close proximity to the school. We would like to see clarification on noise levels, works traffic (daily start and end times as well as number of and types of vehicles) and the overall timescale for the construction phase.

We would also like to see the steps Rampion plans to take to mitigate negative impacts on the school.

The governors are happy to discuss this matter further if required.

Kind regards,

Governors of St Mary's Clymping CE Primary School
Justin Murray, Head Teacher