

West Grinstead Parish Council strongly objects to the proposal to put in the Rampion 2 pipeline across the B2116 between Shermanbury and Partridge Green using an open cut crossing. We believe it should be by way of a trenchless crossing, in line with the planned crossing of the B2135. This would save considerable inconvenience to the many people who use the B2116. Under no circumstances should the road be temporarily closed as suggested in Schedule 3 to the draft DCO.

Partridge Green lies in the parish of West Grinstead. It has a population of about 2,200. In the Horsham Local Plan, both the existing one and the emerging new one, it is classified as a medium size village. It is sandwiched between the B2135 to the west, the A281 to the east and is south of the A272. The B2116 runs west east through the southern end of the village.

There is no rail service. The only public transport is the 17 bus service between Horsham and Brighton. This comes down the A281 through Cowfold and turns right in Shermanbury to do a circuit of the village before rejoining the A281 in Shermanbury and heading south through Henfield.

Partridge Green has a primary school with about 150 children, a fire station, a few shops and two thriving commercial estates. Few residents work in the village. Many work elsewhere. Most are dependent on their cars. Some travel into the village to work in the two commercial estates. Others, many from the coast, use the B2116 as a cut through to avoid congestion at Cowfold, one of only two air quality management areas in West Sussex.

As matters stand, the intention is to use a trenchless crossing of the B2135 south of Ashurst. Whoever decided to do that and not do the same with the B2116 cannot have known the roads in question. It must have been part of a desk-top exercise. The decision is so illogical as to be almost perverse. Hopefully, it is still not too late to be reversed.