

Bengeworth Road Community Liaison Group

Minutes of meeting on 7 June 2022 – DRAFT

Meeting host:	UK Power Networks
Venue:	Zoom
Time:	18.00-18.40
Panellists:	Phoebe Adams (PA), stakeholder engagement and communications manager, UK Power Networks Andrew White (AW), project manager, UK Power Networks Tony Markwick (TM), architect, Markwick Architects Dan Knight (DK), Camargue (UK Power Networks CR team) Hetty Hopkinson (HH), Camargue (UK Power Networks CR team) Mark Farmer (MF), project manager, National Grid Joe Cawley (JC), Grayling (National Grid CR team)

The tenth Bengeworth Road Community Liaison Group (CLG) meeting was held on Tuesday 7 June and focused on UK Power Networks' emerging plans for a new substation building, which is being delivered as part of National Grid's London Power Tunnels (LPT) project.

All residents who previously signed up for the CLG were invited to join the meeting. Emails were also sent to the local councillors for Herne Hill and Loughborough Junction ward, as well as local MP, Helen Hayes and the Loughborough Junction Action Group (LJAG).

The meeting was attended by three residents, a representative of LJAG, and two Herne Hill and Loughborough Junction ward councillors, Cllr Jim Dickson and Cllr Deepak Sardiwal.

Presentation

PA opened the meeting as chair before introducing the panellists, explaining the focus of the meeting and how it would work.

JC provided a short update on National Grid activity. The objective is to finalise and submit designs for its own substation building in June.

AW described the background to the UK Power Networks substation building and how it fits within the wider National Grid LPT project. He explained that the building's location was dictated by a

range of site constraints and operational requirements, and that UK Power Networks was working with its architect and neighbouring residents to minimise impacts.

TM presented the emerging design and explained that it was six metres further from the site boundary than the original proposal. Building height was similar to the original proposal but UK Power Networks continues to look at opportunities to reduce this.

TM presented possible cladding treatments being considered for the building, with brick emerging as the favoured treatment for the elevation facing the closest residential neighbours. This would include a range of potential brick applications to add variety and help ventilate the building.

PA provided details of the community engagement being undertaken by UK Power Networks on its emerging design for the substation building, and next steps for the project.

Questions

Cllr Jim Dickson (JD) asked if the National Grid meeting being arranged with a small group of Southwell Road residents had taken place. JC confirmed that the meeting had taken place and that feedback was being taken on board. Design work was taking longer than anticipated but there will be a further presentation to residents once there is an update.

Cllr Deepak Sardiwal (DS) introduced himself as a newly elected councillor for Herne Hill and Loughborough Junction following the recent local elections. DS was encouraged by efforts to minimise impacts on neighbours and address resident concerns. He asked several questions directed at National Grid and UK Power Networks:

- What are the options to minimise the building height, including tendering requirements for the switchgear?
- Are Southwell Road resident requests for colour options on the National Grid substation being taken on board?
- What is the latest take-up of the community grant fund and any other engagement activity?
- What is being done to promote the community engagement activity, and have his predecessors suggestions been taken on board?
- How can local people give feedback, and what is UK Power Networks doing to maximise feedback?

PA confirmed the recommendations by Cllr George were being taken forward, including placing notices in the local libraries, and that UK Power Networks was using a range of engagement methods to maximise participation.

AW confirmed the height of the building is dictated by the switchgear and that footprint is also a factor. UK Power Networks procurement is focused on minimising size while making sure it meets operational requirements. TM added that maintenance is also a factor in determining the building height as a crane is needed above the switchgear.

TM confirmed that resident feedback on the National Grid substation was being taken on board. JC added that the outputs would be shared with residents.

JC advised that LJAG was applying for grant funding for energy efficiency improvements at the community café, and this was being supported through the central National Grid funding system. Discussions are ongoing with Friends of Ruskin Park (FoRP) around volunteer days and what the

community grant fund is able to support given restrictions on funding local authority owned assets. Discussions are also taking place with FoRP and LB Lambeth ecological officers around National Grid's commitment to deliver a 10% biodiversity increase and targeting this at Ruskin Park. National Grid is preparing social media assets to encourage more applications to the community grant fund.

A local resident asked for clarification on the amount of grant funding available. JC confirmed that applications could be up to £20,000.

The same resident asked whether a visual is being prepared to show the impact on Southwell Road itself. TM explained that the only viewpoint from Southwell Road is through the gap between 58/60 and 62, and that a visual will be prepared to show this.

Cllr Dickson asked whether there has been any information distributed through letterboxes to promote the consultation. PA confirmed that letters had been posted throughout the local area, alongside notices in libraries, information on the project website, and an email from National Grid to its database.

Cllr Sardiwal welcomed efforts to promote and engage, and encouraged UK Power Networks to work with local organisations including LJAG, FoRP and The Cambria to help maximise awareness. PA welcomed the suggestion.

Closing remarks

PA closed the meeting by confirming that minutes would be circulated and that a date for the next CLG meeting would be notified in due course.

7 June 2022