

## Bengeworth Road Community Liaison Group

### Minutes of the meeting

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#### Overview

On Tuesday 10 May 2022, the ninth Community Liaison Group (CLG) meeting was held to discuss the works at Bengeworth Road, as part of National Grid's London Power Tunnels project (LPT). All residents who previously signed up for the CLG were invited to attend the meeting. Emails were also sent to all ward (Herne Hill) councillors, as well as local MP, Helen Hayes and local community group Loughborough Junction Action Group.

Three residents and two councillors, Cllr Jim Dickson and Cllr Pauline George, attended the session. The CLG followed eight previous CLG meetings held throughout 2021 and 2022, and three online engagement events in February 2022 on the design options for the National Grid Bengeworth Road substation and headhouse. National Grid also held three public information sessions between 2020 and 2021, two held on 7 December 2020 and one held on 20 January 2021, about the overall works at Bengeworth Road.

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**Meeting called by:** National Grid

**Date:** Tuesday 10 May 2022

**Time:** 6-7pm

**Venue / format:** Zoom

#### *Speakers and panel members (6)*

- Joe Cawley (JC), Director, Grayling (National Grid CR team)
- Mark Farmer (MF), Project Manager, National Grid
- Phoebe Adams (PA), Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Manager, UK Power Networks
- Andrew White (AW), Project Manager, UK Power Networks
- Tony Markwick (TM), Markwick Architects
- Jenny Marshall (JM), Camargue (UK Power Networks CR team)
- Hetty Hopkinson (HH), Camargue (UK Power Networks CR team)
- Jenny Occleshaw (JO), Planning Consultant, Fisher German (UK Power Networks' Planning Consultant)

#### *Technical Support and notetakers (2)*

- Priya Aggarwal-Shah, Grayling (National Grid CR team)
- Mary Lee, Grayling (National Grid CR team)

#### *Residents and members of the local community (3)*

#### **Presentation**

Joe Cawley (JC) opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending. He introduced the team, starting with himself as a Director at Grayling, noting that he would also be chairing the meeting. The rest of the team then introduced themselves and outlined their role on the project.

JC then discussed housekeeping rules, asking attendees to use the "raise the hand" function or post in the chat if they had any questions to ask. He mentioned that the meeting would be recorded for internal purposes and that the minutes and Q&A will be made available on the London Power Tunnels website following the meeting.

He continued on to the agenda, noting that it would cover the following:

1. Site works update
2. National Grid's substation submission – next steps and timeline
3. UK Power Networks' public engagement
4. Next steps and contact details
5. Questions and AOB

### **Site works update**

Mark Farmer (MF) first discussed the works that are being carried out in preparation for the arrival of the tunnel boring machine at Bengeworth Road, which include the installation of a secondary shaft lining and shaft dividing wall. MF referenced a photograph of the dividing wall that was on slide eight of the presentation ('image: secondary shaft lining').

MF then moved on to explain the above ground works on site, mentioning that the works are progressing at a steady pace. They include crane activity, referencing an image of the crane on page 8 of the presentation ('image: Bengeworth Road site'). He also noted that there will be relatively low traffic on site.

MF also confirmed that the shaft works are due to complete in August, and the site team will move on to commence headhouse works, starting with the ground and foundation works. He also stated the substation works will start early next year (2023).

### **National Grid's substation submission – next steps and timeline**

JC moved on to provide an update on National Grid's substation designs. Speaking to slide 10 of the presentation, JC reminded attendees of the proposed substation design, which is the brick option that was shown at online engagement events in February 2022. JC noted that following conversations with Southwell Road residents, National Grid is looking to pursue some colour options and they will be confirmed when the final design is ready to be shared.

JC then explained the timeline of the design's submission, stating that National Grid is planning on submitting their substation design for approval in June, and the Council is committed to holding their consultation on the design following National Grid's submission. He also explained the application will be determined within eight weeks and once approved, National Grid hopes to start initial works on the substation in 2023.

### **UK Power Networks' public engagement**

JC then passed on to Phoebe Adams (PA) to speak about UK Power Networks' public engagement plans. PA acknowledged that many residents are keen to hear updates on UK Power Network's substation and handed over to Andrew White (AW) to provide an update on the status of their works.

Andrew White (AW) began by stating that works on the Bengeworth Road site are part of National Grid and UK Power Networks' plans to rewire the capital. He noted that the new UK Power Networks substation has been requested by them to connect the site to National Grid's transmission network.

AW then outlined UK Power Networks' activity on the Bengeworth Road site, explaining that they are responsible for the delivery of electricity to homes across South London. He added that the site also houses an operational depot for the UK Power Networks team.

AW moved on to discuss a timeline for UK Power Networks' works, stating that in April 2022 they appointed an architect (Markwick Architects) and a planning consultant (Fisher German), and they have been progressing their substation designs. AW noted that they are planning to hold public engagement events and resident meetings in May and June 2022 to gather feedback. He also mentioned that UK Power Networks plans to begin the construction of its substation in 2023 but noted that this is a high-level timeline.

PA then took over to discuss the engagement events, confirming that they will hold two events. The first event will be an online webinar on 15 June 2022, giving UK Power Networks an opportunity to present their designs and attendees the opportunity to ask any question they may have. She also explained the second event will be an in-person, drop-in event on 18 June 2022 at The Cambria pub on Kemerton Road, and the location has been chosen due to its central location and close proximity to the site. PA stated that a letter drop will be carried out following this meeting to notify residents and neighbours of the events.

PA moved on to discuss the upcoming CLG meetings in June and July, which will be hosted by UK Power Networks as they will have the majority of updates to share with CLG members. She noted that in the letter drop, the email address of the UK Power Networks community relations team will be provided and encouraged residents to get in touch with any questions. PA also pointed out their phone number on slide 14 of the presentation, which residents can ring to contact the Bengeworth Road team.

PA explained that due to GDPR restrictions, National Grid are not able to share the details of residents they have been in contact with and thus encouraged interested residents to sign up to UK Power Networks' mailing list to receive updates directly from the company.

### **Land use plan**

AW then talked through a land use plan of UK Power Networks' site on slide 15 of the presentation, explaining the chosen location of the substation. He suggested that as the Bengeworth Road site is an operational depot for the company, construction of the substation has to be simultaneous with day-to-day activities. AW stated that the area highlighted in yellow on slide 15 is the area designated as UK Power Networks' operational site area and thus there are limitations on where the substation can be built in that area. He also mentioned that the equipment inside the substation will dictate its size and height and Network Rail assets on the south side of the site also limit the potential locations of their substation.

### **Possible substation cladding materials**

JC then handed over to Tony Markwick (TM) to discuss the possible cladding material ideas for the UK Power Networks substation. TM explained that they are exploring several options of cladding materials for the UK Power Networks substation, including the brick option shown on slide 16 of the presentation, the high-pressure laminate wall option shown on slide 17 and a metal wall cladding option shown on slide 18. TM explained that these slides were to give attendees an idea of the cladding materials they are exploring and further details on building shape and size will be shared with residents for discussion during the engagement events.

### **Next steps and contact details**

JC took over from TM and outlined the next steps for the CLG meetings, reiterating the issue with GDPR and encouraging residents to sign up to UK Power Networks' mailing list. He also stressed that National Grid will continue to be present at CLG meetings to respond to resident queries, but UK Power Networks will be running these sessions during their engagement period. JC then opened the floor to questions.

### **Questions**

*Please note that this is a summary of the questions and responses and there is a separate document with all questions and answers for your reference. For ease, we have grouped questions under themes.*

### **Public engagement:**

Cllr Pauline George (PG) raised a question on how UK Power Networks can ensure residents are notified of the public engagement events as not all residents have access to digital devices. PA responded by reiterating that they are hosting online and in-person events to address this concern. She stated that National Grid will provide email updates to CLG members on these events after the CLG meeting, while UK Power Networks will conduct a letter drop and set up a microsite for UK Power Networks' updates. In response, PG suggested that UK Power Networks should consider

putting up notices at local libraries such as Carnegie Library. PA responded that they agree and will look into her suggestion.

Cllr Jim Dickson (JD) stated that it is good to see engagement plans from UK Power Networks but questioned how they will be engaging smaller groups of residents that live close to site. PA responded that they are in communication with residents that will be impacted directly by the UK Power Networks substation. She agreed with JD that early engagement with these residents is important, and they have scheduled to meet with one of those residents already. JC added that TM also met with those residents and is aware of their concerns.

JD asked to be notified of any meetings with residents going forward and to be invited if appropriate as he would like to learn about the outcomes of these meetings. PA confirmed that she will reach out to the resident on JD's request and will keep him informed.

### **UK Power Networks substation designs:**

PG raised concerns around the height and size of the substation following Tony's presentation. She stated that residents are concerned with the height of the substation and its potential impact on sunlight. TM responded that they are still in the early stages of finalising the substation designs and they are aware of the residents' concerns. As such, he noted that they are considering all ways possible to reduce the height from 13.5m.

### **Substations timescales:**

JD pointed out that the presentation suggested that the National Grid and UK Power Networks substations may begin construction during similar periods so he would like to receive confirmation on whether they will be constructed simultaneously, and whether this will be avoided.

MF explained that National Grid is already trying to bring forward headhouse works to this summer from 2023 (subject to planning permission (i.e. prior approval)) to minimise the amount of construction works on site in future years. He confirmed that National Grid's substation works will commence in 2023 and there will be a lot of work in parallel with UK Power Networks' substation construction. MF stressed that they will safely coordinate works with UK Power Networks to limit their impact on the community and adhere to agreed noise and air quality levels.

JC followed up to ask MF to confirm whether the site teams will continue to use the Kings College Hospital access to reduce disruption to residents. MF confirmed that is correct.

PG asked for an explanation on the engagement events about the two substations (National Grid and UK Power Networks). JC responded that National Grid held public engagement events in February 2022 with regard to their substation and TM met with a small group of residents on Southwell Road to further discuss the design plans. He stated that they are finalising their designs for submission in June 2022. JC then explained that there is a separate UK Power Networks substation, which the company will be engaging residents and the local community on in June 2022.

### **UK Power Networks' substation location:**

JD questioned whether there is flexibility with the location of the UK Power Networks substation as he could see from the land use plan that there could be potential for the substation to be built away from the curtilage of the site, which may help to ease the concerns of residents, including residents and occupants on 60, 58 and 56 Southwell Road and at Clockwork Studios.

AW responded that the location of the substation has been determined due to restrictions on the other areas on site. He acknowledged that the location is fairly close to residential homes and confirmed there are ongoing internal discussions on whether the substation can be moved further away from the boundary, while the location will remain the same. JC added that updates will be provided to residents during public engagement events, which AW agreed.

### Closing remarks

JC drew proceedings to a close and thanked everyone for their time. He reiterated that updates from UK Power Networks and National Grid will be provided to residents in the coming month. He also stated the community relations team will be available for any further questions and the minutes and Q&A of this meeting will be shared on the LPT website as previously done.

MEETING ADJOURNED

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