

## 2 STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

The purpose of this chapter is to describe the consultation carried out in relation to the proposed development and to outline the key issues raised by stakeholders. Consultation began in early 2007 with the identification of key stakeholders with an interest in the proposed development. These include both statutory and non-statutory consultees as discussed in Section 2.1 and the general public (see Section 2.2). Proposed ongoing consultation activities associated with the development are also outlined in Section 2.2.5.

Consultation forms an essential part of the EIA process. In this case, the early involvement of the public and other stakeholders has helped to ensure that the views of various groups or individuals were taken into consideration from the preliminary route selection process through to the preparation of this EIS.

### 2.1 STATUTORY/NON-STATUTORY CONSULTATION

Consultations regarding route selection and the proposed development were conducted with a number of statutory and non-statutory bodies, as outlined in Appendix C, through either written correspondence or discussions. Initially, in April 2007, an EIS Scoping Report for the proposed development (see Appendix B) was circulated to consultees at the preliminary stage of the route selection process (see Chapter 3). The purpose of preparing the report was to inform consultees of the proposed development and to allow early input into the route selection process.

Community Update Brochures providing information updates (see Appendix D) at each stage of route selection were then issued to all consultees (see Appendix C) and circulated to householders in the lorras (Erris) area. This provided a further opportunity for interested and potentially affected parties to comment on the proposed project. All consultees were requested to contact RPS if further information or a meeting was required to discuss the proposed development. The key issues raised by members of the public, through discussions or submissions, have been considered in the preparation of this EIS and are set out in Section 2.2.4.

Specifically, consultation with key statutory bodies has occurred in respect of the proposed onshore pipeline development, as modified in response to the written invitation of An Bord Pleanála. A summary of such consultation, and issues arising, is set out at Table 2.1.

**Table 2.1:** Key issues raised by statutory/non-statutory consultees on the proposed development.

Organisation	Issue	Chapter /Section /Appendix
Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government - National Parks & Wildlife Services	Construction related issues in designated conservation sites such as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA) and potential disturbance (e.g. lighting, noise and vibration) of species protected by the Wildlife Act.	Chapter 5 Section C Appendix J, K, L & M
North Western Regional Fisheries Board	Construction related issues including potential interaction with salmonid (including smolt) migration, including wastewater management at Aghoos tunnelling compound.	Chapters 5 & 13 Appendix K
Mayo County Council	Nature and extent of development proposed. Proposed surface water drainage system (including outfall) serving the proposed Landfall Valve Installation. Local Roads. Management of tunnelling spoil and tunnelling wastewater.	Appendix I Chapter 10 Chapter 7
Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government (including Underwater Archaeological Unit and National Monuments Service)	Route selection to consider routes, which would have least impact on archaeology. Potential impact of construction compounds in the close vicinity of site of archaeological potential.	Chapter 3 Chapter 16 Appendix N & O

Organisation	Issue	Chapter /Section /Appendix
Members of the Marine Licence Vetting Committee	<p>Fish community assessment within Sruwaddacon Bay.</p> <p>Potential for physical impacts on Sruwaddacon Bay i.e. scour during construction works.</p> <p>Details on construction methods including footprint i.e. width, length, depth etc.</p> <p>Details on preferred construction method of choice and associated 'worst case scenario' impacts.</p>	<p>Chapter 13 &amp; 14</p> <p>Appendix K &amp; L</p> <p>Chapter 5 &amp; 14</p> <p>Appendix L</p> <p>Chapter 5</p> <p>Chapter 5 &amp; Section C</p>
Birdwatch Ireland	<p>Potential adverse impacts on Sruwaddacon Bay which forms part of Blacksod Bay/Broadhaven (pSPA).</p> <p>An 'appropriate assessment' should be carried out and information provided to allow for scientific certainty.</p> <p>Significant site monitoring is required in order to inform this assessment process and ensure impacts on interests of the sites are assessed in a robust manner particularly given that Sruwaddacon Bay is an integral part of the pSPA designation.</p> <p>Significant monitoring of sites with Annex 1 birds (under the Birds Directive) outside designated sites in the wider countryside and appropriate measures to avoid impacts on these listed species &amp; wildlife generally need to be identified.</p> <p>Potential disturbance to the pSPA (birds and their benthic fauna food source) - in particular from the tunnelling operation</p>	<p>Chapter 12, 13 &amp; 14, Appendix J - L</p> <p>EIS &amp; Appendix P</p> <p>Chapter 12, Appendix J</p> <p>Chapter 12, Appendix J</p> <p>Chapter 12, Appendix J</p>
An Taisce	<p>Concerns regarding potential leakage from the umbilical and the outfall pipeline.</p> <p>Management of excavated tunnelling material.</p> <p>Vibration from the tunnelling operation.</p> <p>Concerns about how the tunnel would be finished, e.g. grouted or not.</p>	<p>Chapter 4</p> <p>Section C</p>
Environmental Protection Agency	<p>Options for disposal/recovery of tunnel arisings.</p> <p>Licensing/permitting.</p>	<p>Chapter 11 and Appendix S4</p>
Irish Peatlands Conservation Council	<p>Non-designated Annex 1 Blanket bog habitat.</p>	<p>Chapter 12 and Appendix J1</p>

### 2.1.1 Pre-application Consultation

Prior to the submission of the application in February 2009, pre-application meetings were held with An Bord Pleanála, the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR), and the Foreshore Section of Coastal Zone Management Division (CZMD) of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (now the Foreshore Unit of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government) on the scope of each of the three applications for the proposed development. An Bord Pleanála also requested that RPS give consideration, in the application under the Strategic Infrastructure Act, to the criteria used in the selection of the previously approved route and their comparison to those used in the route selection of the proposed route in this EIS (see Chapter 3).

Following An Bord Pleanála's request for further information dated 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2009, SEPIL and their consultants has engaged in additional statutory consultation with statutory bodies including Mayo County Council, the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR), Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, National Parks and Wildlife Service and the North Western Regional Fisheries Board. In addition, further consultation with non-governmental organisations has taken place including An Taisce, Birdwatch and the Irish Peatland Conservation Council.

## 2.2 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

This section outlines both the approach to public consultation on the proposed development and the broader ongoing consultation activities on the project. This section also highlights the consultation process on the onshore pipeline including the key public stakeholders, and the key issues raised during consultation. Ongoing consultation activities associated with the proposed development are also discussed in Section 2.2.5.



**Plate 2.1:** Public Consultation during Open Day in February 2007

### 2.2.1 Approach to Consultation

The public consultation process on the onshore pipeline application as submitted in February 2009, which was developed and led by RPS, aimed to:

- Provide an open and transparent process for members of the public to participate in the route selection process;
- Seek input from the public on the criteria to be used in the route selection process;
- Provide a channel of open communication with landowners;
- Provide opportunities for the public to input into each phase of the route selection process and to raise issues or concerns with any of the corridor options presented; and
- Keep the public informed of the route selection process as it progressed.

## 2.2.2 Key Public Stakeholders

At the beginning of the consultation process, RPS set out to identify and contact as many public stakeholders and groups in Iorras (Erris) as possible. These include:

- People living and working in Iorras (Erris);
- Local landowners;
- Local community groups;
- Local business groups;
- Local public representatives;
- Locals who have shown an interest in the project; and
- Locals who supported and objected to the project.

## 2.2.3 Public Consultation Process

The consultation strategy developed and evolved as the project progressed and as RPS became more aware of public issues and concerns.

- A dedicated consultation team within RPS was assigned to assist and develop the consultation process.
- The first phase of consultation was devised to contribute to the route selection process.
- A local RPS Project Office was established in Béal an Mhuirthead (Belmullet), where a full-time RPS Consultation Team Manager and other full-time project staff were based to facilitate local and regional consultation. This service was advertised widely and the public were encouraged to visit the office during office hours (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm) to discuss the project at their convenience. The service operated until June 2009 at which point the responsibility was transferred to SEPIL Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) and RPS's dedicated Landowner Liaison Officer.
- A dedicated RPS Landowner Liaison Officer was assigned to the project to assist various SEPIL Community Liaison Officers to consult directly with landowners within the identified route corridors.
- A number of consultation events were held to consult and inform the public with regard to the route selection process for the onshore pipeline. These included 'Open Days', a Community Workshop, 'Open House Week', meetings (face-to-face and small groups) and Public Displays.
- Community Update Brochures were published on a regular basis and at each project milestone to keep the public and other stakeholders updated on progress with regard to the route selection process. Nine of these were published during the route selection and public consultation process, seven prior to the February 2009 application submission, one was published after the 2009 application submission and an additional one in March 2010.
- A stand-alone website ([www.corribgaspipeline.ie](http://www.corribgaspipeline.ie)) dedicated to the Corrib Onshore Pipeline project was also set up as a virtual means of consultation with the public and to further assist the consultation process.
- Liaison with local residents on both sides of Srúwaddacon Bay has continued to-date. Since November 2009, RPS and SEPIL have had a large number of one-to-one meetings and

meetings with small groups to discuss all aspects of the project and to keep the local community up-to-date of developments.

- A series of meetings, focussed on the modified pipeline route requested by An Bord Pleanála, took place with members of the local community during April 2010. The views of local residents on various aspects of the project were ascertained through this engagement, the details of which are outlined in a report on these sessions contained in Appendix D.

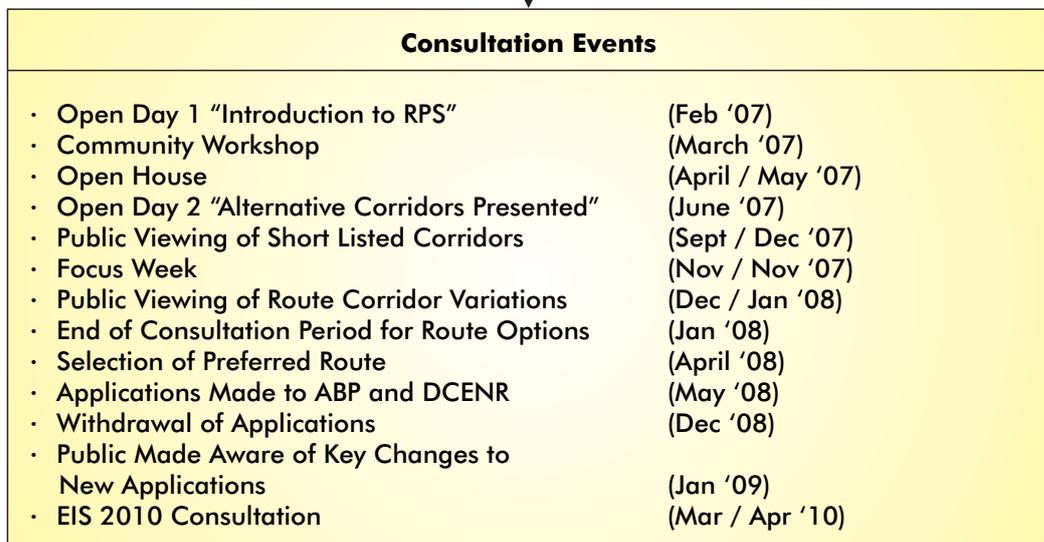
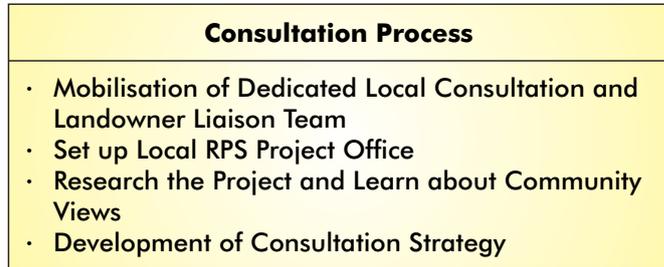
A summary of each of the public consultation events is outlined in Table 2.2 and Figure 2.1. A brief summary is also given in the following sections, which are presented in chronological order of occurrence. Copies of Community Update Brochures and other literature provided to the public during these events can be found in Appendix D.

**Table 2.2:** Route Selection Phases and Public Consultation.

Phase	Date	Consultation
Introduction of RPS	February 2007	'Open Day 1' held in the Broadhaven Bay Hotel, Béal an Mhuirthead (Belmullet) outlined the role of RPS, the route selection process and predicted timelines.  Community Update Brochure (dated February) distributed to approximately 3,500 households in Iorras (Erris).
Route selection criteria	March 2007	Facilitated Community Workshop in Teach Iorrais, Gaoth Sáile (Geesala) and discussion on the route selection criteria to be used in the selection process <sup>1</sup> .
Route selection criteria	April 2007	Community Update Brochure (dated April) distributed to approximately 3,500 households in Iorras (Erris).
Finalisation of route selection criteria	April / May 2007	'Open House' held in RPS Project Office during the week April 30 <sup>th</sup> to 4 <sup>th</sup> May to provide a final opportunity for the public to comment and input into criteria for route selection.
Route selection criteria & identification of eight route corridor options	June 2007	'Open Day 2' held in (Broadhaven Bay Hotel, Béal an Mhuirthead (Belmullet)) to communicate the final route selection criteria. Identification of eight preliminary route corridor options.  Community Update Brochure (dated June) distributed to approximately 3,500 households in Iorras (Erris).
Short-list of three route corridors	September 2007	Public Display in RPS Project Office to detail the emerging preferred route corridor options.  Community Update Brochure (dated June) distributed to approximately 3,500 households in Iorras (Erris).
'Focus Week'	November 2007	'Focus Week' to provide a progress update to the public in relation to the route selection process. Held in the RPS Project Office during the week 12 <sup>th</sup> –16 <sup>th</sup> November 12 <sup>th</sup> to 16 <sup>th</sup> .  Community Update Brochure (dated November) distributed to approximately 3,500 households in Iorras (Erris).
Variations of short-listed route corridors	December 2007	Announcement that further studies and feedback from the consultation process had led to the identification of two variations to the short-listed corridors. Corridor variations put on public display in the RPS Project Office.  Community Update Brochure (dated December) distributed to approximately 3,500 households in Iorras (Erris).
End of consultation period regarding the route corridor options	January 2008	An additional public notice was put in all the local papers advising that the public consultation phase would close on 18 <sup>th</sup> January, 2008.
Selection of preferred route	April 2008	Public announcement of preferred route, which was put on display in the RPS Project Office.  Community Update Brochure (dated April, 2008) distributed to approximately 3,500 households in Iorras (Erris).
Applications made to An Bord Pleanála and DCENR	June 2008	Community Update Brochure summarising the EIS and the statutory approvals and submissions process was distributed to approximately 3,500 households in Iorras (Erris).
Withdrawal of applications made to An Bord Pleanála	December 2008	Public announcement stating that the applications have been withdrawn and the reasons for doing so. Letters were also sent to landowners and occupiers along the route advising that the application had been withdrawn but that a new application would be made in early 2009.
Key changes to new application	January 2009	A Community Update Brochure summarising the key changes in the EIS, details on the realignments to the proposed route, and the statutory approvals and submissions process was distributed locally in Iorras (Erris).

<sup>1</sup> A report on the workshop was issued to all participants for review and was available on Open Day 2.

<b>Phase</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Consultation</b>
ABP Oral Hearing	May and June 2009	Oral Hearing hosted by An Bord Pleanála in Béal an Mhuirthead (Belmullet) with participation by key statutory bodies, members of the local community and SEPIL.
Pipeline Route modification	March and April 2010	Community engagement was carried out to gather feedback in relation to the modified route. This involved a Community Update Brochure; an update to the web page; letters; face-to-face meetings, and small group meetings.



### 2.2.3.1 Open Day 1

The first public Open Day was held in the Broadhaven Bay Hotel, Béal an Mhuirthead (Belmullet), on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2007 from 3.00pm until 9.00pm. The objectives of this Open Day were to:

- Introduce RPS and outline their role;
- Introduce the importance of route selection criteria;
- Indicate parallel activities that would follow to obtain public and other stakeholder input on route selection criteria and the time frames for future events; and
- Promote and encourage participant involvement in the next phase of the consultation process.

Open Day 1 was widely advertised using local papers and radio. It was staffed by eleven RPS staff members with expertise in areas such as route selection, planning, environmental impact assessment, engineering and pipeline safety and consultation. It is estimated that the event was attended by approximately 100 local people. A Community Update Brochure (dated February 2007) introducing RPS and the project was available to participants on the day and was distributed to approximately 3,500 households in Iorras (Erris).

### 2.2.3.2 Community Workshop

On 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2007 a workshop was hosted by RPS in Gaoith Sáile (Geesala), County Mayo, from 10am until 4pm. It was facilitated by Pat Hayles Delbridge, an international expert in risk communications, commissioned by RPS. The purpose of the workshop was to understand and develop the criteria that the public considered important in the route selection process.

An open invitation to the workshop had been issued at Open Day 1 and by a Community Update Brochure distributed locally. Follow-up phone calls and letters were then sent to anyone who had expressed an interest as well as to all registered community groups.

The format of the workshop randomly divided participants into four working groups, with each group having the opportunity, in the course of the day, to provide insights into four topic areas:

- Technical
- Environmental
- Community and Planning
- Other, i.e. “What have we missed?”

Each workshop topic was allocated approximately 50 minutes and had a resource person from the project team, a facilitator, and a note taker. Participants were invited to give further insights in each of the key focus areas through further complementary processes, such as telephone calls, email and face-to-face meetings. Attendance at the workshop included 22 local people and fourteen RPS staff members. A report on the workshop was circulated to all attendees for further comment before being finalised. Copies of the final report were posted to all workshop attendees (see Appendix E). It was also made publicly available at Open Day 2 and at the RPS Project Office.

### 2.2.3.3 Open House

In addition to the Community Workshop, RPS hosted an ‘Open House’ week so that every opportunity could be made available to other interest groups and individuals to input into the final choice of route selection criteria. The ‘Open House’ week took place in the RPS Project Office from 30<sup>th</sup> April to 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2007 and was widely advertised using local papers, radio and parish newsletters.

Individuals and interest groups from all areas of the community ranging from sports groups, the GAA, angling clubs, women's groups, etc. were invited to come to the RPS Project Office and put forward their ideas and views on route selection criteria and the Onshore Pipeline Project. Members of the project team were also present and available to respond to queries over the course of the week.

#### **2.2.3.4 Open Day 2**

Open Day 2 for the Corrib Onshore Pipeline was held in the Broadhaven Bay Hotel, Béal an Mhuirthead (Belmullet) on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2007, from 3pm until 9pm. The objectives of Open Day 2 were to:

- Provide feedback on public and other stakeholder input into route selection criteria;
- Outline the route selection criteria and the route selection process;
- Present eight indicative route corridor options;
- Seek feedback and comments in relation to the eight corridors presented;
- Promote and encourage public involvement in future phases of the route selection process; and
- To seek general input into the onshore pipeline project.

The format of the Open Day included a number of displays explaining how RPS had arrived at the different route corridor options. A Community Update Brochure (dated June 2007), which included maps and a description of the route corridor options, was made available to participants on the day. Members of the RPS project team (fourteen in total) were on hand to answer any queries. It is estimated that approximately 180 people attended the event. The event was widely advertised using local papers, radio and the project website and a public notice outlining the eight route corridors was published in the four local newspapers. The project website was also updated with relevant project information.

The Community Update Brochure was delivered to approximately 3,500 households in the local area and included a 'Tell Us Your Views' feedback form. The route corridor options were also publicly advertised in the four local newspapers.

After the Open Day, it was decided to host future public consultation events in the RPS Project Office where members of the public could visit and view future public displays in private at their convenience and discuss the project on a one-to-one basis and in a confidential manner with members of the RPS Project Team.

#### **2.2.3.5 Public Event for Shortlisting**

RPS short-listed three preferred route corridors (Corridors A, B and C) on 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2007. Approximately 165 landowners within or along the route corridor options were sent a letter advising that Corridors A, B and C had been short-listed and to invite these landowners to an advance viewing of the short-listed corridors, which were on public display in the RPS Project Office on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September. The public display was then open to the public from 19<sup>th</sup> September onwards. The RPS project team were on hand to answer any queries the public or landowners had in relation to the short-list of corridors. The event was widely advertised using local papers, radio and the project website. Maps of the short-listed corridors were also published in the four local newspapers.

The objectives of the public display of the short-listed corridors were to:

- Outline and describe the short-listed corridors options;
- Outline the route selection process and associated project timelines;

- Seek landowner and public feedback and comments in relation to the short-listed corridors presented;
- Promote and encourage public involvement in the next phase of the route selection process; and
- To seek general public input into the onshore pipeline project.

A Community Update Brochure (dated September 2007), which included maps and a description of the short-listed route corridors, was made available to participants on the day. The brochure outlined the reasons why these corridors had been short-listed and some of the identified constraints were also listed. The brochure was also delivered to approximately 3,500 households in the local area and included a 'Tell Us Your Views' feedback form. The shortlisted route corridors were also publicly advertised in all local newspapers.

### **2.2.3.6 Focus Week**

RPS hosted a 'Focus Week' from Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> November to Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2007, from 10am to 5pm in the RPS Project Office. This event aimed to update the public in relation to progress in the route selection process. Members of the RPS project team were available during the week to discuss the route selection process for the Corrib Onshore Pipeline and to answer any queries from landowners or the public.

The objectives of the Focus Week were to:

- Update the landowners and the public in relation to progress in the route selection process;
- Advise that RPS were investigating possible variations of Corridor A, B and C;
- Outline the route selection process and associated project timelines;
- Continue to seek landowner and public feedback and comments in relation to the short-listed corridors presented;
- Promote and encourage public involvement in the next phase of the route selection process, and
- Seek public input into the onshore pipeline project.

The event was widely advertised using local papers, radio and the project website. A Community Update Brochure (dated November, 2007) outlining progress made in the route selection process since September was also delivered to approximately 3,500 households in the local area and included a 'Tell Us Your Views' feedback form. Only three local individuals attended the Focus Week. There was no apparent reason as to why so few attended.

### **2.2.3.7 Variations of Corridors**

RPS announced two further Corridor options (Corridors A1 and C1) on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2007, which were variations of two of the previously short-listed corridors and were identified following feedback from the public consultation process and further environmental and technical considerations of the short-listed route corridors.

The corridor variations were put on public display in the RPS Project Office from 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2007 until 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2008 and potentially affected landowners were invited by letter to view the corridor variations in Seafield House (the RPS Project Office). Members of the RPS project team were available in the RPS Project Office to discuss all the route corridor options with landowners and the public during this last phase of consultation. The corridor variations were also publicly advertised in all four local newspapers.

It was advertised widely that the public consultation period around the route corridor options would end on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2007. The public were again encouraged to make their views known to RPS by viewing the corridor variations on display in the RPS Project Office, by filling out one of the 'Tell Us Your Views' slips within the Community Update Brochure (dated December, 2007), or by sending their views online via the project website etc. In early January 2008, RPS again advertised that the public consultation process would officially close on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2008.

Members of the RPS project team were available in Seafield House to discuss all the route corridor options with landowners and the public during this last phase of consultation.

The objectives of the public display of the short-listed corridor variations were to:

- Outline and describe the short-listed corridor variations and how they emerged;
- Outline the route selection process and associated project timelines;
- Seek landowner and public feedback and comments in relation to the corridor variations presented;
- Promote and encourage public involvement in the last phase of the public consultation process around the route corridor options; and
- Seek public input into the onshore pipeline project.

The Community Update Brochure, which included maps and a description of the corridor variations, was made available to anyone who visited to view the public display. The brochure was also delivered to approximately 3,500 households in the local area and included a 'Tell Us Your Views' feedback form. The brochure outlined the reasons why these corridor variations arose. The short-listed corridors and their variations were also publicly advertised in all local newspapers.

### **2.2.3.8 Announcement of Preferred Route**

The selected modified route for the Corrib Onshore Pipeline was publicly announced by RPS in April 2008. Every effort was made to discuss the selected modified route with potentially affected landowners and commonage shareholders along the route prior to the public announcement. A letter was also sent to these landowners again advising of the choice of preferred route and inviting landowners to view the route on public display in the RPS project office. A Community Update Brochure (dated April 2008) and maps were enclosed. The selected route was publicly advertised in the local newspapers and the public were invited to view the display where the RPS project team would be available to answer any queries. The Community Update Brochure was also distributed to approximately 3,500 households in Iorras (Erris).

The objectives of the public display were to:

- Outline and describe the proposed route and the main reasons it was selected;
- Provide background information and details on the proposed development as a whole;
- Answer any queries that the public had in regard to the route selection process or any other aspect of the Project; and
- Outline the future steps in the project such as submission and determination of statutory applications.

### **2.2.3.9 Submission of Applications (May 2008)**

Applications for consent in respect of the proposed onshore gas pipeline and associated development were originally submitted to An Bord Pleanála and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources in May 2008.

A Community Update Brochure, which summarised the key information provided in the EIS and the statutory approvals and submissions process was distributed to approximately 3,500 households in Iorras (Erris) in June, 2008. The EIS and its Non-Technical Summary were put on display in the RPS and SEPIL Project Offices in Belmullet, and on the project website ([www.corribgaspipeline.ie](http://www.corribgaspipeline.ie)). On request, a copy of the EIS was also made available on CD from the Project Offices.

#### **2.2.3.10 Withdrawal of Applications in 2008**

The applications to An Bord Pleanála were withdrawn in December 2008, and the details of this were publicly announced via the local and national media. The application was withdrawn to facilitate minor realignments to the route of the pipeline in order to avoid more sensitive habitats. Letters were also sent to all landowners and occupiers along the route advising of the withdrawal of the application.

The application under the Gas Act made to the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources in May 2008 was withdrawn in January 2009.

#### **2.2.3.11 Key Changes to Application (January 2009)**

A Community Update Brochure summarising the key changes to the EIS and details on the realignments of the proposed route was distributed to approximately 3,500 houses in Iorras (Erris) in January, 2009, in advance of submitting the new application to which the 2009 EIS relate. The brochure also explained the statutory approvals process and detailed how the public could make submissions in relation to the application.

#### **2.2.3.12 Modification of EIS**

Following An Bord Pleanála's invitation to modify the pipeline route, direct engagement with members of the local community has been carried out by SEPIL Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) and by RPS staff. This focused on, but was not exclusive to, the areas of Gleann an Ghad (Glengad), Ros Dumhach (Rosport), na hEachú (Aghoos) and Poll an tSómais (Pollatomish). The purpose of this engagement, carried out in March and April 2010, was to inform stakeholders of the intended response to the letter issued by An Bord Pleanála in terms of modifications to the pipeline route and construction methodology, and to gather feedback on the proposals. This has involved:

- A letter outlining the project status and an invitation to meet with the project team was issued to approximately 600 homes in the Cill Chomáin (Kilcommon) area;
- A Community Update Brochure (distributed to approximately 3,500 houses in Iorras (Erris)) with a feedback form and an invitation to arrange a small group meeting;
- Every reasonable attempt was made to have contact with all those living in the immediate vicinity of the pipeline (approximately 1,000m from the mid-line in the bay (which was taken as an estimated location of the revised route)).
- A series of small group meetings;
- An online project update and feedback form;
- Project phonenumber.

#### **2.2.3.13 Brochures and Feedback Forms**

Community Update Brochures (See Appendix D) were published to keep the public and other stakeholders updated with regard to the route selection progress. These were also used to inform the public about community, environmental and technical aspects of the project and to address issues or concerns raised during public consultation.

Each brochure included information on the various ways in which the community could get in contact with the project team. This allowed the public to return any comments or queries in relation to the

relevant project milestones at that time, or in relation to the onshore pipeline in general. Each published brochure was delivered to approximately 3,500 local households in Iorras (Erris). The brochures were also sent to other stakeholders such as public representatives.

In parallel with this, SEPIL published regular newsletters updating the public on the Corrib project as a whole as well as updates on the onshore route selection process. Separately, SEPIL published a brochure in January 2008 outlining progress on implementing the recommendations made in by Advantica in their Independent Safety Review Report. The Brochure entitled 'Corrib Onshore Pipeline: Enhancing Safety' described the purpose and functions of the proposed Landfall Valve Installation (LVI) at Gleann an Ghad (Glengad).

#### **2.2.3.14 Website**

Access to up-to-date, accurate and reliable information about the Corrib Gas Pipeline is essential to ensuring good consultation can occur. To aid the consultation process, a stand-alone website was set up ([www.corribgaspipeline.ie](http://www.corribgaspipeline.ie)) dedicated to the Corrib Gas Pipeline. This enabled the public to access up-to-date information on the consultation, route selection and general onshore pipeline project at their convenience. The website also facilitated queries and public views to be submitted to RPS online. The website went live in September 2007. A designated email address ([routeinfo@rpsgroup.com](mailto:routeinfo@rpsgroup.com)) was also set up and advertised locally to facilitate electronic communication with the public. All emails received were answered promptly.

This website was updated in March 2010, with an information update on the proposed modifications and an invitation to people to submit their views. The revised EIS, including a Non-Technical Summary, along with the original application, will be available on line. The project website will continue to be used as a method of virtual consultation where members of the public can access up-to-date information in relation to the onshore pipeline.

#### **2.2.3.15 Promotion of Events**

Public consultation events and project milestones were generally advertised using the following:

- Letters to potential landowners within and along route corridor options prior to public announcements of project developments;
- Face-to-face meetings with potential landowners within and along route corridor options;
- Local press and radio adverts;
- Small group meetings;
- Community Update Brochures which were distributed to approximately 3,500 households in Iorras (Erris);
- The Corrib Onshore Pipeline project website; and
- Press releases and media interviews.

### **2.2.4 Key Issues Raised**

At all stages during the consultation process, the issues raised in returned feedback forms, at each public event, meeting, workshop etc. were recorded. As the consultation process progressed, the consultation strategy was reviewed and refined to ensure that the issues raised were taken into consideration. Public concerns were broadly grouped into community, safety, environmental and technical concerns. Every effort was made to address these issues through various consultation tools (Open Days, meetings, phone calls, Community Update Brochures, email and use of project website).

Table 2.3 provides a summary of key issues raised by members of the public in relation to the proposed development. The table includes a reference to where in the EIS these issues have been addressed.

**Table 2.3 Key Issues**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Concern/Issue</b>	<b>EIS Chapter</b>
<b>Community</b>		
Proximity	The pipeline should be moved further from housing than the previously approved pipeline and avoid public buildings, road crossings, schools etc as much as possible.	Chapters 3 & 4
Impact of development on communities in Iorras (Erris)	Previous and future impact of the development on people living in close proximity to the proposed development and those living in Iorras (Erris).	Chapters 6 & 17
Benefits of the development in Iorras (Erris)	How will local people living in close proximity to the proposed development and living in Iorras (Erris) benefit from the proposed development?	Chapters 6 & 17
Value of local houses	Will the development impact on the value of houses along the proposed development? Will insurance premiums increase in the area because of the pipe?	Chapter 6 & 11
Landowner Consultation	Were all landowners consulted by SEPIL and RPS?	Chapters 2 & 6
Community consent for the development	100% community consent would be required for the proposed development – and this is the only way that the proposed development will gain acceptance within the local area.	Chapters 2 & 3
<b>Safety</b>		
Risk of injury	Concerns raised in relation to personal safety of the public or workers during protests against the development.  Concerns were raised about the building burn distance.	Not addressed in EIS Appendix Q
Operating pressure in the onshore pipeline	Is it normal for gas pipelines to carry high-pressure gas that could cause a greater risk of ruptures and explosions in the pipeline?	Chapters 3 & 4 Appendix Q
Transportation of unprocessed 'raw gas'	Transportation of untreated 'raw gas'. Concern that it is unusual to transport gas in an untreated state on land. Concerns that the transportation of high pressure, 'raw gas', could cause a greater risk of ruptures and explosions in the pipeline.	Chapter 4 Appendix Q
Offshore gas processing	Why will SEPIL not process the gas offshore and avoid developing a terminal and onshore pipeline?	Not addressed in EIS
LVI - location	Concern expressed in relation to the location of the Landfall Valve Installation (LVI). Is there suitable access to the LVI to carry out maintenance works?	Chapter 4
LVI - safety	Concern about the safety of the LVI and the potential for explosions in Gleann an Ghad (Glengad).	Chapter 4 Appendix Q
Pipeline integrity and risk of explosions	Concerns in relation to the possibility of the onshore pipeline exploding. How would the integrity of the pipeline be maintained?  Concerns were raised about the strength of the pipe, particularly the welds and its ability to withstand corrosion over time  How do the bends in the pipe impact on safety?  What happens in the event of an incident on the pipeline when it is underground? How is it maintained?  What happens if the umbilical gets severed?	Appendix Q

<b>Environment</b>		
Designated Conservation Sites	Will the construction and operation of the development impact on designated conservation sites such as the Glenamoy Bog Complex cSAC and Blacksod / Broadhaven Bay pSPA within the area? What measures will be taken to avoid such impacts during construction and operation?	Chapter 5 & Sections B-F
Sand dune and Machair systems in Gleann an Ghad (Glengad)	Concerns in relation to the development of the LVI and potential impact on sand dune and Machair systems in Gleann an Ghad (Glengad), which is priority habitat.	Chapter 12
Permanent impacts to Sruwaddacon Bay	Concerns in relation to the construction of a pipeline in Sruwaddacon Bay and the potential for permanent impacts on its flora and fauna.	Chapter 5 & Sections B-F
Carrowmore Lake water quality	Concern about the potential for the proposed development to impact on the quality of water in Carrowmore Lake.	Chapter 3
Vibration from Tunnelling	Will there be significant impacts from tunnelling due to vibration on fauna or on people? Is there potential for tunnelling vibration to cause landslides?  How will it affect the local environment (especially the graveyard and the school)?	Chapter 9 Chapter 12 Chapters 13 & 14 Appendix M1
Impacts on Shellfish	Will there be an impact on naturally occurring shell fish or aquaculture in Sruwaddacon Bay from the development?	Chapter 14
<b>Technical</b>		
Peat stability issues / landslides	Concern in relation to the construction of a pipeline in peat which coupled with the risk of landslides locally, could potentially impact on safety.	Chapters 5 & 15 Appendix M2
Future gas finds	Will the development be used to transport gas outside of that identified in the Corrib Gas Field?	Chapter 17
Tunnelling	How and where will material excavated from tunnelling be disposed of?  Issues were raised about the possibility of hitting gas pockets (radon etc) during the tunnelling operation and what impact that might have on the local community.  How much water is required for the operation and where will it come from and how will it be brought to the site?  Concerns over the impact of possible 24 hour working were raised.  There were also concerns about noise, light pollution and traffic on humans, particularly at the construction compounds.	Appendix S4  Not covered in EIS  Chapter 5 Appendix M7  Chapters 7, 8, 9 & 12
Location of the pipe	There was concern about not being able to demonstrate exactly where the pipe is located for both the vertical and horizontal alignments.	Chapter 3, 5 and Appendix M1
Surface works in Sruwaddacon Bay	Will there be a need for surface intervention in Sruwaddacon Bay?	Chapter 5
Pipeline Safety	Concern regarding requirements of An Bord Pleanála to modify 2009 proposed pipeline route.  Concerns regarding safety of sections of pipeline where modifications were not requested by An Bord Pleanála.	Appendix Q

## 2.2.5 Ongoing Consultation Activities

RPS will continue to address any issues or concerns that the public have throughout the statutory approvals and construction phases for the Corrib onshore pipeline, primarily via its own organisation which is based in both Mayo and Dublin. SEPIL's team of five full-time Community Liaison Officers will also continue to meet with people in the community and to respond to visits, phone calls, emails and letters from members of the public to the Corrib Natural Gas office in Belmullet.

The Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) are and will remain available during both the construction and operational phases of the proposed development to meet with the public, and provide any information necessary to address any questions, or issues and concerns in order to disseminate and circulate information to the community. There will also be regular newsletters circulated in the community to provide timely accurate information about the progress of the project - these will also be freely available online. There will also be regular public information notices in local newspapers detailing forthcoming construction activities – these will also be freely available online. The ongoing public information programme should be seen as comprising an integral element of the proposed development, and not a mitigation measure against a potential adverse impact.

Additionally, RPS and SEPIL will continue to update the public and other stakeholders in relation to the statutory approvals through the continued use of Community Update Brochures, public notices, the dedicated project website and by direct meetings with the public.

This EIS, including a Non-Technical Summary, will be available on public display in the Offices of Mayo County Council in Castlebar and Béal an Mhuirthead (Belmullet), as well as in the SEPIL Office in Béal an Mhuirthead (Belmullet). Copies will also be available for inspection at the local Garda station in Béal an Mhuirthead (Belmullet) during the public consultation period. The EIS will also be available to download from the dedicated application website, [www.corribgaspipelineabpapplication.ie](http://www.corribgaspipelineabpapplication.ie).

The consultation programme and strategy will continue to develop in relation to further queries and concerns raised by the public and other stakeholders during the statutory approvals and construction phases.

### Ongoing Community Investment

In addition to the CLO team, SEPIL has also had a full-time Community Investment Advisor (CIA) working on the project since September 2007. The primary role of the CIA is the administration of SEPIL's three community investment programmes – the Local Grants Programme (LGP), the Third-Level Scholarship Programme and the Corrib Natural Gas Erris Development Fund (EDF). Through these three programmes, the Community Investment Advisor – who lives in the community – has built up relationships with some 127 community and voluntary groups within the Erris region.

The process of engagement around these programmes begins with initial contact from the group, by way of a telephone enquiry or personal call, or through the submission of a funding application. A face-to-face meeting is then arranged with a representative or representatives of the group to discuss funding applications, where appropriate, and this may lead to subsequent meetings. If funding is approved for an organisation (either through the LGP or the EDF), follow-up monitoring visits are conducted by the Community Investment Advisor to ensure the funding has been used appropriately and for the purpose for which it was given.

In 2008, the Community Investment Advisor had 139 meetings with various representatives within these voluntary and community groups. This was in addition to two public information open days held at the Belmullet office around the re-launch of the LGP in January 2008, which was attended by 52 people. In 2009, she had 209 meetings with various community representatives of funded voluntary and community groups, and several additional queries on funding from new contacts.

Whilst the meetings/visits associated with the community investment programmes are primarily linked to funding, updates on the Corrib project are also given by the Community Investment Advisor, and feedback on the project is freely given by these groups, which in turn helps to inform SEPIL's understanding of the community and thus its decision-making in it.