

As GATCOM is not a local authority, it would not be invited to submit an Adequacy of Consultation (AoC) representation. However, this would be something that West Sussex County Council would be invited to do as a local authority within the definition set out under section 43 of the Planning Act 2008. My apologies for not making this clearer in my response; I had presumed your involvement spanned both GATCOM and West Sussex County Council.

Local authorities can consider the concerns of the local community as part of their AoC representation. Therefore if members of the public (GATCOM included) are not satisfied that an Applicant has taken, or will take, account of their concerns, ideally the next step would be to raise their concerns to a relevant local authority. Notwithstanding this, the Planning Inspectorate does often receive submissions directly from members of the public about the adequacy of pre-application consultation which can be taken into account at the Acceptance stage. For an example of this, please refer to the [Section 55 Acceptance of Applications Checklist](#) published in respect of the recent decision to accept the proposed Sunnica Energy Farm scheme for examination; in particular, please see box 5 of the checklist.

More information about Community Consultation can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's [Community Consultation FAQ document](#).