

REPORT

Phase Two Feedback Summary

Boston Alternative Energy Facility

Client: Alternative Use Boston Projects Limited

Reference: PB6934-ATH-ZZ-XX-RP-Z-1003

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1 Introduction

Six Public Information Days were hosted on behalf of Alternative Use Boston Projects Ltd (AUBP) in February 2019 to provide updates on the proposed Boston Alternative Energy Facility (the Facility). The objective was to provide an update on the development of the project. The project team also identified progress made on the baseline assessment and the early stages of impact assessment for various environmental topics, to be fed into the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), which will be published shortly. Attendees were invited to provide their views on the scheme, including ideas for mitigation, both in person and via feedback forms.

The Public Information Days were held at the following locations:

Table 1 Locations, dates and times of Public Information Days

Venue	Date	Time
Wyberton Parish Hall London Road, Boston PE21 7EJ	15 February 2019	12pm – 4pm
St Thomas' Church Hall London Road, Boston PE21 7EJ	16 February 2019	12pm – 4pm
Ridlington Centre Sibsey Lane, Boston PE21 6HB	20 February 2019	3pm – 7pm
Fishtoft Pavilion Playing Fields, Church Green Road, Fishtoft, Boston, Lincolnshire PE21 0RS	21 February 2019	3pm – 7pm
Frampton Church House Village Hall 140 Middlegate Road, Frampton, Boston PE20 1AW	22 February 2019	3pm – 7pm
St Nicholas' Community Centre Fishtoft Road, Boston PE21 0AA	23 February 2019	1pm – 5pm

These Public Information Days form part of the Phase Two informal consultation of the Development Consent Order (DCO) pre-application process for the Facility.

All attendees were encouraged to share their feedback on the proposals. The feedback received will be considered in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) by AUBP and the project team as the proposed Facility is developed. The team will subsequently take comments into account as the scheme is developed or will identify reasons why comments have not been accommodated. These responses will be published in a Consultation Report, which will be submitted with the DCO application..

The Phase Two Public Information Days were advertised via:

- a maildrop to every home and business in the Boston Borough Council area;
- adverts in the Boston Standard, Lincolnshire Free Press and Spalding Guardian newspapers;
- posters displayed locally and sent to parish councils and large employers close to the site to display; and
- articles published in the local media.

Most of the people who attended the Phase Two Public Information Days were supportive of the proposals. Where attendees raised concerns, these were typically involving noise, air quality and emissions, impact on the river and its users, and traffic. This was consistent with Phase One events.

2 Attendance

A total of 158 people attended the Phase Two Public Information Days. All attendees were invited to complete a feedback form. 54 feedback forms were received via post and three via the online survey.

Table 2 below shows the number of feedback forms received from each venue, along with the total number of attendees at each event. Please note, some respondents may have attended more than one event and not all respondents confirmed which event they attended.

Table 2 Number of attendees at Public Information Days

Venue	Date	Number of attendees	Number of attendees that responded
Wyberton Parish Hall London Road, Boston PE21 7EJ	15 February 2019	18	4
St Thomas' Church Hall London Road, Boston PE21 7EJ	16 February 2019	31	11
Ridlington Centre Sibsey Lane, Boston PE21 6HB	20 February 2019	15	5
Fishtoft Pavilion Playing Fields, Church Green Road, Fishtoft, Boston, Lincolnshire PE21 0RS	21 February 2019	37	10
Frampton Church House Village Hall 140 Middlegate Road, Frampton, Boston PE20 1AW	22 February 2019	31	10
St Nicholas' Community Centre Fishtoft Road, Boston PE21 0AA	23 February 2019	26	6

3 How people found out about the Public Information Days

The feedback form provided a section for respondents to identify how they found out about the Public Information Days. The breakdown of information provided is summarised below in **Figure 1**. Please note, some respondents selected more than one answer.

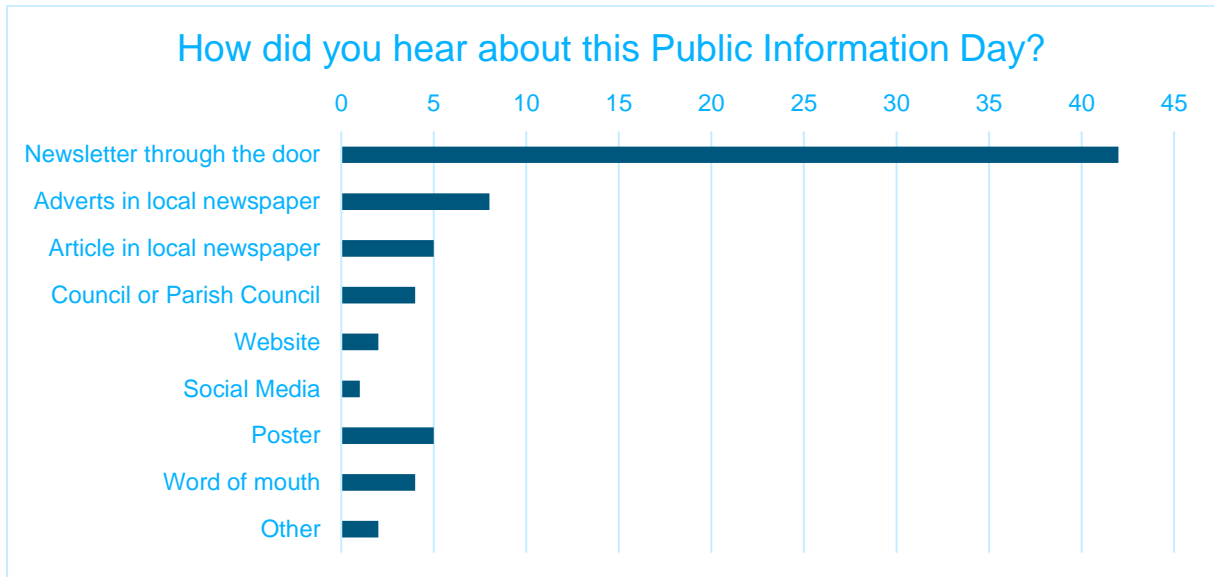


Figure 1 How people found out about the Public Information Days

4 Did you find the information presented today useful?

This question asked respondents whether the information available at the Public Information Days was useful to them and why. The majority (85%) felt that the information was useful. A breakdown of responses to this question can be seen in **Figure 2** below. The reasons why respondents found the information useful has been categorised in **Table 3**, and the reasons why respondents did not find it useful has been categorised in **Table 4**. Please note that some respondents stated that the information both was and wasn't useful.

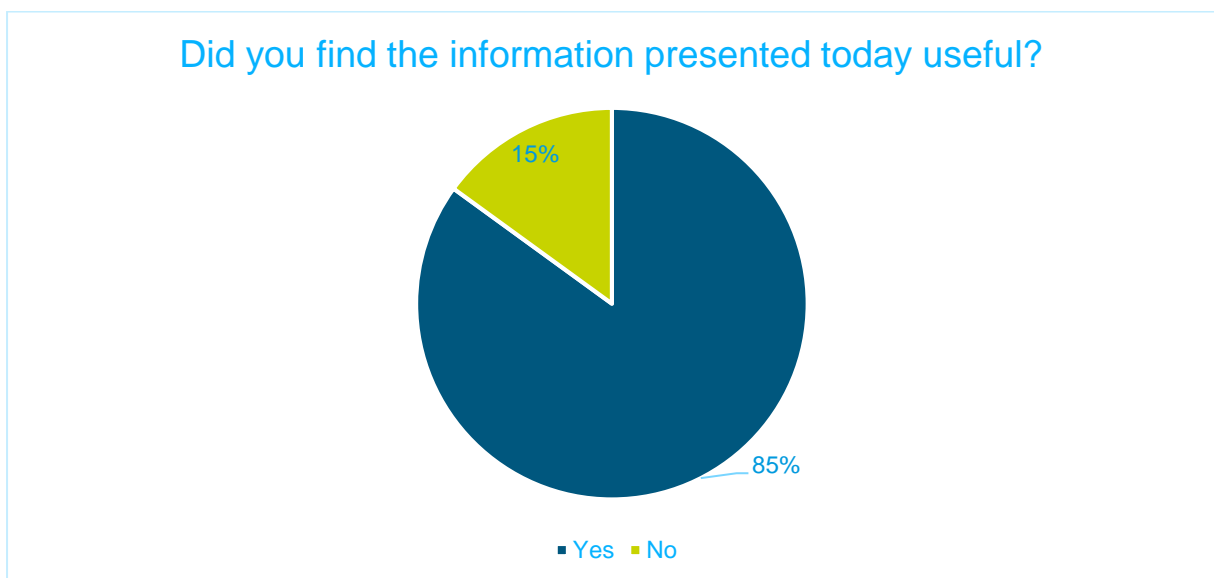


Figure 2 How useful were the Public Information Days

51 people stated that they found the information presented at the Public Information Days to be particularly useful. A breakdown of their feedback is summarised below in **Table 3**. Please note that some respondents' answers contained more than one reason.

Table 3 What information did respondents find useful from the Public Information Days

Theme	Count
Staff provided detailed explanations	11
Detailed site plans/ maps	9
Video footage found to be informative	8
Information regarding gasification process	7
Information regarding RDF bales	5
Information regarding environmental impact	4
Quantity of information available at events	3
Information regarding plant operations	3
Information about development as a whole	3
Improvements from Phase One consultation	2
Information regarding transport	2
Information about local impact	2

Nine people stated that they did not find the information presented at the Public Information Days useful. A breakdown of their feedback is summarised below in **Table 4**. Please note that some respondents' answers contained more than one reason.

Table 4 Feedback from respondents who did not find the Public Information Days useful

Theme	Count
Insufficient information provided regarding noise, odour and pollutants	4
Staff unable to answer questions in enough detail	2
No explanation as to why waste being used is not local	1
Maps provided insufficient level of detail	1
Information too similar to that provided at Phase One information days	1
Concerns regarding Macmillan Way footpath not resolved	1
Answers provided only to calm residents and not to provide additional information	1

5 Did you attend any of the Phase One Public Information Days in September?

The feedback form provided a section for respondents to state whether they attended any of the Phase One Public Information Days, and if so, which one. A breakdown of responses to this question can be seen in **Table 5** below. A breakdown of the Phase One Public Information Days attended by respondents who answered 'yes' to this question can be seen in **Figure 3** below. Nine respondents also responded that they were not aware of the Phase One consultation.

Table 5 Whether or not members of the public attended the Phase One Public Information Days

Did you attend any of the Phase One Public Information Days in September?	Number
Yes	20
No	36

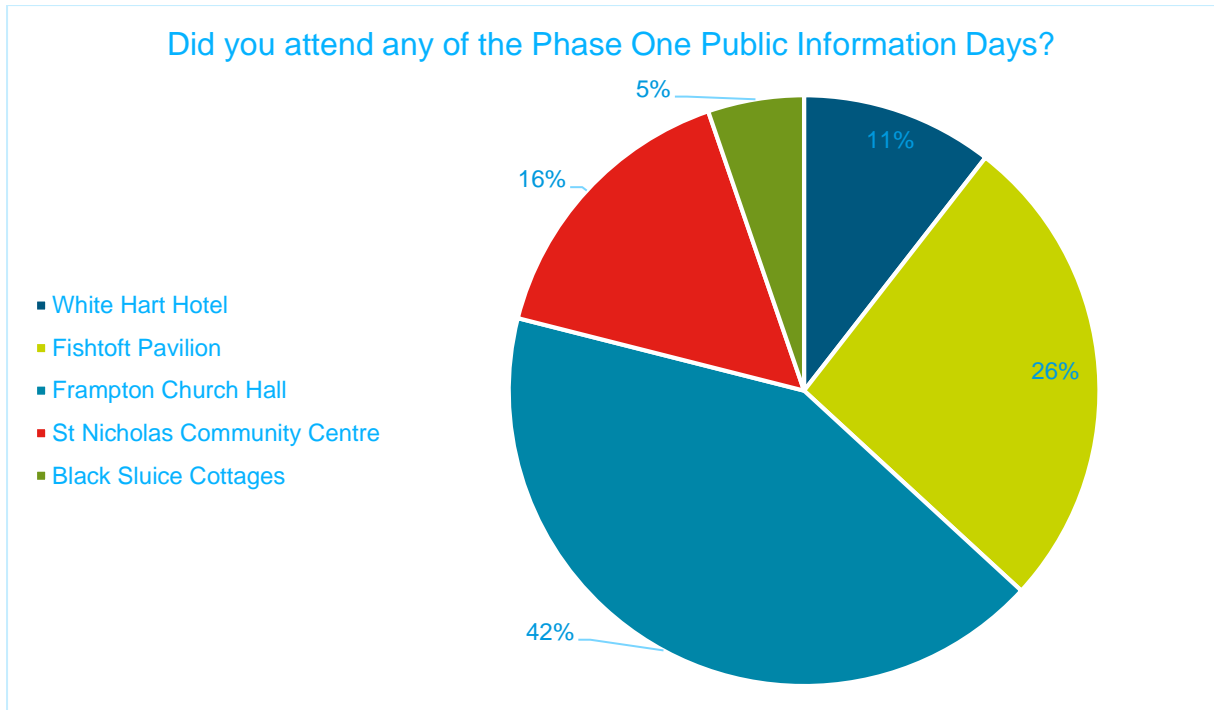


Figure 3 Phase One Public Information Days attended by respondents

6 What information would you like to see at the next round of consultation events?

This question asked respondents what information they would like to be made available at the next round of Public Information Days. The most requested information was regarding air pollution. Responses to this question have been categorised below in **Table 6**.

Table 6 Information requested at the next round of Public Information Days

Theme	Count
Air pollution	13
Noise pollution	9
Odour	5
Transport/ traffic	5
Impact on local crops	4
Impact on river	4
Outcome of PEIR	4
Project progress update	4
Comparison to similar facilities	3

Theme	Count
Construction details	3
Gasification process/ statistics	3
Light pollution/ visual impact	3
Site safety and operations	3
Impact on local area	2
Impact on nature and habitats	2
Information on public rights of way	2
Risk assessments	2
Shipping	2
Water pollution	2
Explanation of failure of similar plants	1
Financial benefits over other methods	1
Inclusion of RSPB Frampton Marsh on graphics	1
Information on navigation	1
Lifespan of facility	1
Local employment/ benefits	1
Opinion of fire service	1
Sea defences	1

7 Please tell us your views on generating power from household waste that cannot be recycled and its contribution to the UK's renewable energy targets.

This question asked respondents for views on generating power from household waste in general, however the majority of responses were related to the Boston project. The majority of the responses to this question were positive and in favour of generating power from household waste. A number of respondents stated that they were in favour with the condition that negative impacts could be mitigated against or prevented - for example air, noise or odour pollution. The responses to this question have been categorised below in **Table 7**.

Table 7 Respondents' views on generating power from household waste

Theme	Count
In favour (general)	20
In favour of reducing landfill	10
In favour of utilising waste for good	6
Plant should not be in Boston	5
Recycling should be encouraged instead	4
In favour as long as no emissions are created	4
In favour of reliable renewable power compared to wind or solar	3
Concerns over traffic in Boston	3
Concerns over pollution from Boston project	2
In favour of job creation	2
In favour of other renewable energy sources	2
Against use of subsidies for renewable energy	1
Waste used should be from Boston	1

Burning waste is not 'green'	1
Concerns over noise and smell from project	1
Concerns over safety of site	1

8 Do you have any comments about the layout of the facility?

This question gave an opportunity to comment on different features of the facility: the wharf; the bale storage; the feedstock processing facility; the gasification facility; the lightweight aggregate plant; the grid connection/ electrification and an area for additional comments. Some respondents chose to 'tick' each feature to indicate they had a comment which they then wrote in the additional comments area, and others chose to write their comments by the feature name.

A full breakdown of the responses to each feature and the number of comments left per feature are listed below in **Table 8**.

Table 8 Comments about the layout of the facility

Wharf	Number of comments: 15
Flood risk - high tides - not just a once in a hundred years anymore!	
Will the building of this be disruptive?	
How does this affect flood defence?	
Construction and maintenance of wharf and riverbank. Do not want backlog of queuing ships & other river traffic compromised.	
Too close to port/ tidal barrier/ Boston	
Turning of the boats in a narrow tidal river.	
Dredging rivers will help port of Boston.	
The whole scale of this facility causes me grave concerns.	
Footpath	
Did not see the layout at this venue	
Bale storage	Number of comments: 12
Potential fire risk - you may plan fire prevention but it will not rule it out	
Open, so climate risk, smell, dirt	
Too close to residential property (noise, smell etc.)	
Amount to be stored	
Use energy to produce cooled internal storage area.	
Should not be there, no wall, no real road.	
Concerned about the effect (smell etc) if bales are damaged whilst being moved on site	
Bales in plastic!	
Feedstock processing area	Number of comments: 7
What does this mean?	
Noise	
Too close to residential property (noise, smell etc.)	
Noisy and smelly	
Gasification facility	Number of comments: 11
Noise	
Too close to residential property (noise, smell etc.)	
The chimney heights not yet clear	
A huge blot on the landscape!	
Lightweight Aggregate Plant	Number of comments: 6
Concerns of dust leaks	
Noise	

How many tonnes per month?	
Will aggregate be available for local use/ purchase?	
Grid connection /electrification	Number of comments: 6
Should be a 'peak' for Boston individuals i.e. Christmas lighting.	
Noise	
Too close to tidal river (flooding - water and electricity don't mix)	
More details needed	

There are 28 additional comments from this question. These comments are listed below in **Table 9**.

Table 9 Additional comments about the facility

Additional Comments
Odour control is essential
From the information received it would appear that their facilities are being well planned and the process at all stages will be carefully controlled
Will high winds cause a problem? How high and how visible will facility be?
I think you guys are all doing a great job
New technology - recycling using RDF
Too narrow
I have concerns about possible waste getting into the river - event of damaged bales at point of unloading.
Seems to be well thought out, should benefit the local area in multiple ways.
As long as the minimum space is as stated and never under.
General height could be lower to fit in with a flat landscape.
No comments
Very concerned about smell from broken RDF bales - before, during re-wrapping
Good video/ T.V. displays on what these areas will look like and how they work. I'm not qualified to comment on how they could be improved or on site safety.
These factors seem to have been covered by the 1st phase consultation. I'm not qualified to comment, but it seems some of the 'improvements' should have been built into the original scheme not forced by local concerns.
A site like this should be as far away from towns/ housing etc. as possible (noise, odour, contamination) - at North Sea camp area still access to river, and access road would not impact on the already over loaded town roads (no bypass yet!!)
No comments - looks very well planned
What would happen if the facility were flooded? - Flood 2013 only a few years ago. Can it be shut down? Pollution impact? After 25 years how easy is it for the site to be cleared?
Now the flood barrier is being built where will the vessels turn around if they don't use the dock? Will the river be regularly dredged if a new wharf is being built on the river itself? What about other vessels using the river+ fishing boards?
No because I am not a technical person.
No because I have no technical knowledge I would rather it be at the mouth of The Wash
This proposed site is opposite a country park and an established community. In your own words, it is likely to have significant effects on the environment by its nature, size and location - it should not be built.
The size of this facility is too big for a small market town like Boston.
When I questioned your spokesperson as to whether or not the vast roof of this plant would host photo voltaic panels I was told 'yes', but I saw no evidence of this in plans. It would appear that the road to this facility serves an industrial estate plus two or more retail motor dealerships. Therefore, this must be kept open and unobstructed at all times.
All of the above should not be sited anywhere near a heavily populated area
None of this was on display on this occasion
It seems to be a very large area judging by the amount of area given above, considering Boston is a very small market town and this site will be overpowering.
All good

I am not impressed that the river bank will be cut away as there is a lot of wildlife in that particular area. The plant could be connected to the railway system for transportation of waste, the train line is already close by, leaving the river and river bank alone.

I feel that access to the site needs more consideration, i.e. vehicle movement while building the site, and thereafter. Also, prevailing winds would blow directly into housing areas.

9 Do you have any comments on the factors being assessed in the Environmental Impact Assessment?

Thirteen respondents had comments on the factors being assessed in the PEIR, whilst 22 respondents did not. The question asked anyone who wished to comment to explain the reasons behind their answers. Respondents' explanations are listed below in **Table 10**.

Table 10 Respondents' comments on factors being assessed in the PEIR

Very satisfied with the explanation given about the control of factors which could affect the environment.
The visual impact should be assessed based on the view of a person who is around 1.9 metres tall not 1.7 metres tall. Most men are over 1.7 metres tall and you should work on a worst-case scenario
Everyone has been really helpful today
Still awaiting information on this - not able to comment
As long as the plant is properly monitored for pollution, I have no objection
Everything seems to be considered
All areas need to be assessed for impact i.e. Light pollution, noise, smell, short term building disruption, safety of plant, visual impact on surroundings.
Road transport links in town are poor so please consider using wharf for other materials not just RDF.
Not sure I know enough about who is responsible for setting acceptable levels of environmental impact or how impartial that body may be. Also, I'm not sure we're looking at all of the factors involved here because this is the first facility of its kind and we're unlikely to see the true and full impact of the site until it's been up and running for a few years.
We would trust that all relevant precautions are taken.
Don't know enough to comment but would seek to know: What environmental bodies have been asked to contribute their views on the impact on Boston residents? Will their views be made public (& at what stage) so that the public can know details of their professional input before it's too late? Not government bodies who will of course produce evidence to support the scheme. But campaign groups for the health of the environment (like Green Peace etc.).
Seems to address most of concerns but we all know how figures can be manipulated particularly when vast profit is at stake -local councils can be "bought" as can government bodies.
Presume you're taking Boston Horsetail into account with the Wharf development as the population of this rare plant must be nearby.
Information given at consultation was sufficient.
Air pollution - a gas flue from the gasification process take-up gas into the atmosphere. Smell - smell from the bale storage, the process etc. Noise - a huge impact in every way. Light - not only on people but we have The Wash and RSPB reserves, migrating birds, seals, fish here. Visual - The plant will be 30m high and noise and light too.
Don't exactly know what they are!
It needs to take into account the adjacent biomass plant which was to use waste wood but now this has been extended to include refuse derived fuel. So in effect we will now have 2 plants running.
Health and safety - safety will be drastically reduced.
Please publish the base measurements of air quality and publicly publish on-going measurements when operating the site.
If the biomass plant is now going to take RDF why do we need another facility

This plant will have terrible effects on the surrounding area. How will it affect the bird and wildlife in the Wash, The Haven and RSPB Frampton Marsh? How on earth can you minimise/ mitigate against noise and light pollution.
The noise during construction and once it's running will be heard for miles around. The area is very flat and noise travels. Also smells, air pollution and light pollution.
I don't know anything about the detail of this assessment, but I'm concerned about impacts on any local wildlife, because every time a piece of otherwise unused land is built on, it reduces habitat for critters and birds etc. which would otherwise be undisturbed.
CO2 is the least of our worries we need to know what toxic substances could escape from this site, whether into the air or the river. Would it be possible to ensure there are zero emissions?
How can it be environmentally friendly when rubbish must be transported across Scotland and Essex to a port then travel by ship to Boston to be treated, when Scotland has rivers and available land all around and Essex also. You will take away a public coastal path which is used regularly and expect people to walk through a busy industrial estate.
Boston is a fishing and leisure port and the size of the ships bringing the waste will impact on the livelihood of the fishermen and people wishing to take their boats out into the wash.
Seems to be well covered in your plans
Everything is in theory and is seen through rose-tinted glasses. Therefore, efforts and mitigation measures should be over egged.
Regarding road traffic during the construction period: There is a railway line that runs eastwards over the river Witham/ Haven through to Boston Dock which normally carries steel. Would it not be a good alternative to use this rail link to carry construction materials rather than on our local very congested and slow road system? There are sidings on the west side of the river where construction loads might be transferred from rail to road.
The wildlife living on the bankside are an asset to the cleanliness of the river. The eco system of the river has to be considered, there are two wildlife /nature areas close by, Frampton and Freiston both could be affected by pollution.
Wildlife is well observed in this and the greater area, i.e. the designated areas at Freiston and Frampton, as well as the river bank in general.

10 What mitigation measures do you consider to be important to manage any significant impacts during construction or operation of the proposed Facility?

The most common mitigation measures mentioned by respondents were measures to limit noise, road traffic, odour and working hours. The types of measure mentioned by respondents are summarised below in **Table 11**.

Table 11 Mitigation measures mentioned by respondents

Theme	Count
Measures to limit noise	14
Measures to limit road traffic/ congestion	14
Measures to limit odour	7
Limit of working hours	7
Measures to limit air pollution	6
Measures to limit light pollution	4
Build further from Boston town	3
Measures to limit impact on nature and nature reserve	3
Measures to limit shipping traffic/ congestion	2
Engagement with community	1
Measures to limit water pollution	1

Screening to limit visual impact	1
Creation of local employment	1
Considerate and safe construction	1

11 Please use the space below to provide any additional comments about the Public Information Day or the proposed facility.

This question asked respondents for general feedback about the facility or the Public Information Days themselves. The feedback can be categorised as positive, negative, and questions or suggestions. The positive responses can be seen in **Table 12**, the negative responses in **Table 13** and any questions or suggestions can be seen in **Table 14**.

Table 12 Positive feedback received

Theme	Count
Informative staff	9
Useful information days	4
Informative materials	3
Use of river to transport	1
Reduction of landfill	1
Renewable energy reduces climate change	1
Improves reputation of Boston	1

Table 13 Negative feedback received

Theme	Count
Too close to Boston	3
No benefit to Boston	3
PEIR should have been made available	2
Increased flood risk	1
Staff at Public Information Days not informative enough	1
Plant will create noise pollution	1
Insufficient mitigation measures	1
Consultation feedback will be ignored	1
River Haven difficult to access	1
Concerns around toxins and health effects	1
Public right of way issues not covered at Information Days	1
More research into gasification needed	1
Public Information Day did not answer concerns	1
Increased traffic to Boston	1

Table 14 Questions or suggestions received

Theme	Count
Delivery of newsletters needs monitoring as issues have arisen	2
Keep website up to date	2
Update public via social media and internet	1
Could industrial waste be used?	1
Apprenticeships should be made available	1

All information from all phases should be collated in one location	1
Boston's waste should be included	1
What benefits will Boston receive?	1
Supplier suggestion	1
Consider using rail links to reduce traffic	1

12 Conclusion

Over 150 people attended the Phase Two Public Information Days. The feedback received from this phase of consultation was mostly positive and supportive of the proposals.

Respondents found the Public Information Days and the information presented at them useful. The staff in particular were praised as being well informed and able to answer questions concisely.

Respondents were positive about the generation of power from household waste and its contribution to the UK 's renewable energy targets. The main areas for which people felt mitigation must be considered were noise, light, air and water pollution, visual impact, and plant safety and operating hours.