

REPORT

Phase 4 Feedback Summary

Boston Alternative Energy Facility

Client: Alternative Use Boston Projects Ltd.

Reference: PB6934-ATH-ZZ-XX-RP-Z-1005

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1 Introduction

Phase Four consultation for the proposed Boston Alternative Energy Facility (the Facility) took place between 10 August 2020 and 10 September 2020. This phase of the consultation was undertaken following changes to the proposed development, in particular a decision to change the proposed technology from gasification to traditional combustion-based Energy from Waste technology.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions and the necessary limitations on public gatherings, this phase of the consultation included online stakeholder briefings, two webinars and a proposed telephone surgery instead of in-person Public Information Days, as in previous phases. Documents were not deposited in public locations, following the temporary changes to certain publicity requirements that were introduced through the Infrastructure Planning (Publication and Notification of Applications etc.) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020.

The consultation was publicised via:

- a maildrop of a newsletter with an update on the Facility including changes to the proposals sent to every home and business in the Boston Borough Council area;
- adverts in the Boston Standard, Boston Target, Lincolnshire Free Press and Spalding Guardian newspapers;
- posters displayed across Boston;
- updates on the Facility website; and
- social media posts on the project's Twitter profile.

The feedback received as part of the Phase Four consultation has been considered by the project team where relevant. The team have taken comments received into account for the final proposals, where appropriate, or will explain the reasons why comments have not been accommodated. These responses will be summarised in a comprehensive Consultation Report, which will be submitted with the Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

2 Attendance

A total of three people attended the webinars. Details of the webinars are provided in **Table 1** below.

Table 1 Phase Four consultation webinar schedule

	Date	Time	Attendees
Webinar 1	Tuesday 11 August 2020	12.00 pm	2
Webinar 2	Thursday 20 August 2020	12.00 pm	1

Both webinars comprised of a presentation from the project team about the changes to the Facility since the previous (Phase Three) consultation, followed by a question and answer session. Attendees at the webinars were encouraged to share their feedback on the proposals and to complete the online survey available via the project website.

The telephone surgery was organised for 26 August 2020. Slots were available for individuals to have a one-to-one discussion with a member of the project team where they could ask questions and provide feedback on the proposal. One telephone surgery slot was booked to take place on 26 August but this was subsequently cancelled and rescheduled for 1 September as the attendee was going on holiday. The consultee subsequently re-arranged again and a discussion was held with a member of the project team. However, it was noted that the question from the consultee was regarding potential opportunities for funding the scheme.

3 Online survey responses

A total of five people completed the online survey. The responses received are summarised below.

1) In what capacity are you providing comments on the proposed Facility?

The first question asked in which capacity the respondent was providing comments on the proposed Facility. Options were local resident; a community or residents' group; parish council representative; local councillor; or 'other'. All five respondents identified themselves as a local resident.

2) Which event(s) did you attend?

The second question asked people which consultation events they had attended. Options were either of the webinars; the telephone surgery; a stakeholder meeting; none of the events; or 'other'. One respondent said that they had attended the webinar on 11 August 2020 and the other four respondents said that they had attended none of the consultation events.

3) How did you hear about the consultation?

Question 3 provided a section for respondents to identify how they found out about the consultation. The breakdown of information provided is summarised below in **Figure 1**. Please note, some respondents selected more than one answer. The respondent who gave "other" as their reply stated that they had heard about the consultation via an email.

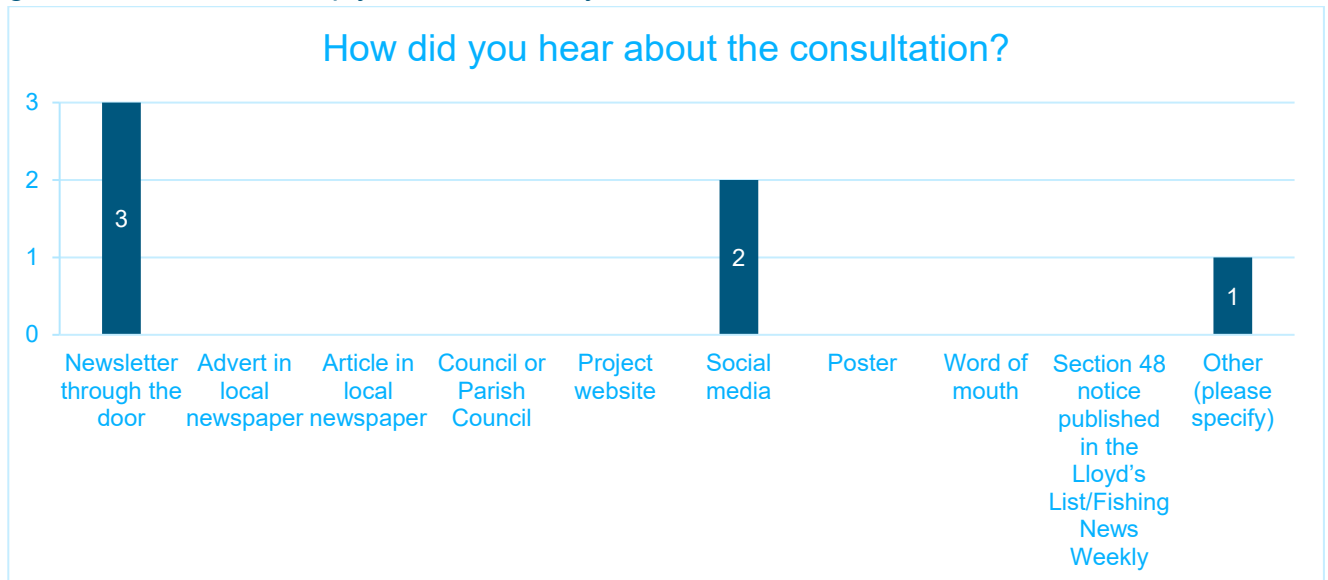


Figure 1 How people found out about the consultation

4) Did you find the event(s) you attended helpful?

Question 4 asked people if they had found the event/s they had attended helpful. Options included yes; no; and non-applicable. There was also an option for people to leave the reason why they had selected either yes or no. Five respondents answered this question. Four respondents said that the question was non-applicable, while one respondent provided a comment that they were awaiting answers to questions raised at the webinar¹ and that the presenter at the webinar had done "a wonderful PR job". They did not, however, specify whether they had found the webinar helpful or not.

¹ The webinar was recorded. The webinar recording was checked and all questions asked at the webinar were answered on the day. The only other point raised was that the respondent had not received an update about the project despite having signed up for one. The same point is made by the same respondent in answer to question 12 below

5) Please tell us your views on the proposed Facility

Question 5 was an open text question which gave respondents the opportunity to provide their general views on the proposed Facility. A total of five respondents left an answer to this question. The majority of comments made were in favour of the Facility. A breakdown of responses is shown in **Table 2** below. Please note that some respondents' answers contained more than one comment.

Table 2 Breakdown of respondents' views on the proposed Facility

Theme	Count
Positive comment about proposals	2
Beneficial to Boston and the environment if the consultation is listened to	1
Fantastic for the town and the environment	1
Opposed to the proposal	1
Revised proposal not as environmentally friendly as gasification	1
Concern for marine environment from damaged RDF bales during automatic delivery – plastic entering the waterways	1
Concern regarding impact on the marine environment from storing RDF bales outside	1
Concern regarding grinding of waste and ash and the impact on air quality and river	1

6) Please tell us your views on the proposed technology change to more conventional thermal treatment energy from waste technology

Question 6 was also an open text question which gave respondents the opportunity to provide their views on the proposed technology change. A total of four respondents answered this question. A breakdown of responses to this question is shown in **Table 3** below. Please note that some respondents' answers contained more than one comment.

Table 3 Breakdown of respondents' views on the proposed technology change

Theme	Count
Positive about proposed change	2
Just a PR description of an incinerator	1

Theme	Count
The applicant was forced to make the change as Outotec left the energy sector	1
Feel could have been misled in earlier stages but thermal treatment offers some small advantages	1
Potential to produce a greater amount of electricity from the same amount of RDF overall, therefore a larger capacity power station	1

7) Do you have any comments on the other proposed minor changes set out in the newsletter / consultation materials?

Question 7 was also an open text question which asked respondents for their comments on the other proposed minor changes as set out in the newsletter and other consultation materials. Four respondents answered this question, and a breakdown of responses is set out in **Table 4** below. Please note that some respondents' answers contained more than one comment.

Table 4 Breakdown of respondents' views on other proposed minor changes

Theme	Count
Welcome improvement to the footpath	1
Welcome reductions in road transport	1
Awaiting remodelling figures to see what effects changes will have on residents	1
Would it be sensible and more cost-effective to remove the carbon dioxide from the site by ship as more is being captured?	1
Referred to response to question 5 highlighting support for the proposal but concerns for marine environment from damaged RDF bales during automatic delivery and whilst stored outside. Also, concern regarding grinding of ash and impact on air quality and the river	1

8) Is there anything you think we should consider in relation to the management of the construction period?

Question 8 asked respondents for their views on anything that should be considered about the management of the construction period. This was an open text question. Five respondents answered this question and their responses are summarised in **Table 5** below. Some respondents' answers contained more than one comment.

Table 5 Breakdown of respondents' views on issues to consider in relation to the management of the construction period

Theme	Count
Ensure contractors' contact details are available for local residents	1
Try to use Lincolnshire companies	1
Offer jobs to local residents	1
Ensure local residents are involved / given feedback	1
Referred to response to question 5 highlighting support for the proposal but concerns for marine environment from damaged RDF bales during automatic delivery and whilst stored outside. Also, concern regarding grinding of ash and impact on air quality and the river	1

9) Do you have any comments on the information provided in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report, the Non-technical Summary and/or consultation leaflet which summarises the minor changes made since the PEIR was prepared?

Question 9 provided an opportunity for respondents to comment on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), the Non-technical Summary and / or the consultation leaflet. This was an open text question. Four respondents answered and their responses are summarised in **Table 6** below. Some respondents' answers contained more than one comment.

Table 6 Breakdown of respondents' views on the PEIR/ Non-technical Summary or consultation leaflet

Theme	Count
Positive comments about the design / proposed changes	2
An updated PEIR report is required to enable any comments as the proposed technology has been changed	1
Information provided and consultation so far has been excellent	1
Referred to response to question 5 highlighting support for the proposal but concerns for marine environment from damaged RDF bales during automatic delivery and whilst stored outside. Also, concern regarding grinding of ash and impact on air quality and the river	1

10) Do you have any comments on the suggested mitigation of potential environmental, operational or visual impacts during construction or operation of the proposed facility?

Question 10 was an open text question which sought respondents' comments on the suggested mitigation of potential impacts during either the construction or operation of the Facility. Three respondents answered this question and their responses are summarised in **Table 7** below. Some respondents' answers contained more than one comment.

Table 7 Breakdown of respondents' views about the suggested mitigation of potential impacts

Theme	Count
Any reduction in traffic is welcome and will reduce the chance of delaying construction	1
Making as much use of the harbour facilities as possible should be a focus – will reduce traffic, noise and road damage plus lower costs	1
Designing the exterior facade of the facility and surrounding the site with trees will help improve the visual appearance	1
Do not feel mitigation will work as your company will no longer be involved	1

11) Do you have any comments on the design of the proposed facility?

Question 11 was an open text question which sought respondents' comments on the proposed Facility's design.

Two respondents answered this question. One stated that the height of the chimneys in relation to the Boston Stump remained a concern, while the other said that the design seemed fit for purpose and they had nothing else to add.

12) Please use the space below to provide any additional comments about the Phase Four consultation or the proposed Boston Alternative Energy Facility

Question 12 provided an opportunity for respondents to provide any further comments about either the consultation or the proposed Facility. This was an open text question. Two respondents answered and their responses are summarised in **Table 8** below.

Table 8 Breakdown of additional comments about the consultation or the proposed Facility

Theme	Count
Any way in which the Facility can help the viability of the port is welcome.	1
Concern about the Phase 4 consultation in terms of contacting those who had registered an interest in the project and availability of the feedback form on the website.	1

The concern expressed is expanded upon further. The comment on this was *“Communications about phase 4 have been very poor. What is the point of having a database of interested people who have requested to be kept up to date yet remain uninformed directly, and have to constantly check the website if they have access. This was brought to the attention of Gary and Rachel Wild, but still remains a problem that has not been addressed, for example the feedback form has just appeared on the website and closes tomorrow. Perhaps I shall have to bring these points up at the examination process with the planning inspectorate in due course.”*

This point is raised regarding the commitment to send responses to members of the public who had signed up to receive updates on the website. Updates were delayed in Phase 4. This was flagged with the project team and is mentioned in the Consultation Report. It was caused because there was a delay in the emails/ letters to those who had signed up for updates going out due to illness in the project team. In terms of the online survey, this was available on the website from the start of the consultation. However, there were a couple of additional links on the website to the survey which were not working – this was corrected just before the end of the consultation.

Conclusion

The feedback received during this phase of the consultation has been relatively limited. The responses received via the online survey generally demonstrated support for the proposed Facility and the change in the proposed technology.

The main positive comments included the benefits of using the river and wharf leading to a reduction in traffic movement, the design changes and improvement of the footpath.

The main concerns raised related to the potential impact on the environment, including traffic, noise, river pollution, air quality and visual impacts. Regard to relevant responses will be included as part of the Consultation Report and taken into account as part of the DCO application.