



Houghton Main Renewable Energy Centre

Addendum to the Statement of Community Involvement

January 2015

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1. Introduction

i. Overview of the Addendum

This report acts as an addendum to the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), originally submitted by Peel Environmental Management UK Ltd as part of the planning application for the Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park. The proposals, submitted to Barnsley Council in June 2014, sought permission for a Timber Resource Recovery Centre (TRRC) and Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facility, to be located on the former Houghton Main Colliery site off the roundabout of the A6195 Park Spring Road, near Little Houghton, Barnsley.

Peel Environmental took a robust approach to consulting with the community about the application, which is summarised in this Addendum report and can be read in full in the SCI (Appendix 1) for the original application.

This document supports a revised application for a TRRC at the site, which would use gasification technology to export to 20MW of energy from 150,000 tonnes of biomass materials each year. This application has been produced alongside development partner Northern Bio Power. The proposed development does not feature an AD facility. It is important to note that the majority of details of the proposed TRRC element of the original application have not changed as part of this submission.

The site boundary has been amended to omit the land formerly shown to be occupied by the AD facility. Other minor aspects of the project that have changed include additional internal circulation space which has been added to the east of the TRRC, a relocation of the sub-station and proposed landscaping to the new eastern boundary.

Considering the above, the applicant concludes that original consultation on the TRRC is still applicable and that feedback received throughout engagement has helped inform and shape the application as it progressed.

2. Consultation approach

i. Consultation objectives

Peel Environmental's original consultation programme was devised to ensure stakeholders and the local community were provided with every opportunity to provide their views on the proposal. The exercise was designed and organised in line with Barnsley Council's Statement of Community Involvement. The consultation approach was designed using PPS Group's principals of consultation.

The Consultation Plan sought to:

- **Notify** stakeholders of the consultation programme
- **Inform** those being consulted about the proposal and the constraints of the site
- **Consult** with the public and stakeholders and get their views
- **Measure** responses and analyse the results
- **Report** back to the local community about the views that were expressed
- **Respond** by amending the proposal where sensible
- **Publish** details of the revised scheme and how the consultation programme has influenced it

ii. Consultation methods

Various local stakeholders in the vicinity of, or with a likely interest in, the development site were identified, including residents, businesses, politicians and stakeholders. Various methods were employed to encourage constructive conversation about the proposals and widen awareness of the project.

Methods of increasing awareness and encouraging participation included:

- Creating a dedicated webpage for the project at www.peel.co.uk/houghtonmain.
- Operating a set of community contact points for the application, including Freephone information line, a Freepost address and dedicated email address. These were included on all-public facing materials.
- Sending letters to elected and community representatives to introduce the proposal and offer meetings.
- Issuing a community newsletter which explained the proposal and provided the details of upcoming Information Days. This was hand-delivered to 380 homes and business in Little Houghton and posted to a further 1364 residential and business addresses.
- Hosting two, one day, drop-in public Information Days at Sandhill Golf Club in Little Houghton. Members of the project team were in attendance to answer questions during the events. Display boards used during the Information Days were available to download from the project webpage following the events.

- All attendees at the Information Days were encouraged to complete feedback forms, which sought opinions on the proposal and provided a space for general comments.
- Proactively arranging and attending meetings with key stakeholders, including parish councils, neighbouring businesses and other elected representatives.
- Issuing press releases to local media outlets to widen awareness of the project.
- Issuing community bulletins to those who took part in the consultation.

All feedback received during the consultation was logged and detailed in an SCI (Appendix 1) to which this document serves as an addendum. The Report outlines how Peel Environmental took on board the opinions expressed and considered them as the proposed development evolved.

3. Summary of findings

i. Consultation feedback

As noted in Chapter 2, a more detailed account of the consultation undertaken and feedback received can be found in the SCI that accompanied the original application (Appendix 1) for the Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park. Views expressed can primarily be found in ‘Chapter 4 – Findings and Feedback’ of this SCI.

Peel Environmental has provided a summary of the feedback received below. This was taken from feedback forms completed at two public Information Days, held in Little Houghton prior to submission of the application.

In response to the question ‘Did You find today’s Information Day useful?’:

- Overall 93% of respondents found the information days useful
- No attendees said the events were not useful

With regard to where attendees had visited the Information Days from:

- A majority of attendees were from Great Houghton, Little Houghton and Darfield
- Attendees also visited from Grimethorpe, Billingley, Wombwell and Brampton

In response to the question ‘Which areas of the development do you feel are most important?’:

- The key areas of interest were Air Quality and Odour; Traffic and Transport; and Noise
- People were also interested in how the facilities would look; the generation of renewable energy; and diverting materials from landfill

Participants also took the opportunity to make general comments and questions about the proposed Energy Park, mainly surrounding the topics of visual impact; odour and air quality; the information day; support and general interest in renewable energy; and traffic and transport. These comments, and other more general submissions, are recorded in Chapter 4 of the original SCI (Appendix 1).

During the consultation, representatives of Peel Environmental also responded to requests for further information and attended meetings with members of the community following contact via the dedicated project email address and Freephone information line.

ii. Outcomes

Opinions expressed during the consultation helped inform the development as it evolved throughout the pre-application period. Following consultation, a number of changes to the application were made. These were:

- Celebrate the development through the selection of materials
- Use a 'camouflage' colour palette
- Take forward the 'consolidated massing' design as it offered a refined aesthetic which was considered to be more appropriate to mitigating its visual impact
- The retention, replacement and improvement of landscape boundary treatments, including shrubs and ornamental trees to provide low level screening and soften the development with the landscape.

Further details of how the applicant responded and considered feedback during the undertaking of technical assessments can be found in the original SCI (Appendix 1).

Following submission of the previous planning application, extensive dialogue with BMBC and all those who expressed a view about the proposals, continued. From this, the proposals were further shaped to respond to concerns raised. Specific commitments made by the applicant included:

- Greatly enhanced landscaping proposals including a large new area of off-site landscaping to the south of the site.
- A promise to prepare and agree a Lorry Management Plan and to cap peak hour HGV movements
- A significant financial contribution to Barnsley Council for bio-diversity and landscape improvements in the Dearne Valley Nature Improvement Area.

These commitments remain in place in support of the revised proposals.

iii. Updates to consultation responses

Whilst the application for the TRRC remains largely unchanged, updates have been made to technical assessments so that they are consistent with the proposals being submitted. The updated assessments outline the changed impacts associated with the development. Peel Environmental has responded to the main areas of interest raised during the consultation below.

- **Traffic and transport**

Traffic and transport was raised as a key area of interest throughout the consultation. The process of carrying out the Transport Assessment was explained in the SCI with the assessment providing predicted vehicle numbers associated with the Energy Park and concluding that the changes in traffic flow would be insignificant. It was also outlined that vehicle movements would be less than the 768 predicted daily movements associated with the existing planning permission for industrial units at the site.

The updated Transport Assessment details that there would be an average 30 HGVs accessing the site each day or 60 HGV movements (30 in and 30 out). There would also be a predicted 16 light vehicle movements (8 in and 8 out) accessing the site each day, including staff, visitors and maintenance vehicles. Figures associated with the updated application are less than that of the original, of 130 HGV movements and up to 18 staff and light vehicle movements.

The Transport Assessment details that the proposal is expected to generate very low levels of traffic, however a Framework Travel Plan has been prepared as part of the application. The framework plan includes a management strategy for the routing of HGVs to and from the site, as well as measures to encourage alternative methods of travel to Houghton Main. The assessment concludes that the Energy Centre will generate vehicle movements substantially below the level that would be created by the consented scheme for industrial units; that the TRRC operator will have some control over HGV movements associated with the facility; and the impact of the proposal will not be 'severe' (this is a technical term used in the National Planning Policy Framework).

- **Visual impact**

Those who participated in the consultation were keen to learn what the Energy Park would look like. The SCI outlines how feedback shaped the proposal, in particular the change to the colour palette used for the buildings and the introduction of screening. As part of this application, the amount of built development of the site has been reduced, meaning the visual impact on the surrounding area has in turn been lessened.

Peel Environmental has revised its Landscape and Visual Amenity Assessment for the updated application, to understand the impacts of the TRRC alone, taking into consideration the existing surroundings. The updated study has used viewpoints from around the site to provide representative viewpoints of the Energy Centre in location. Depending on existing views of the site, the updated assessment shows that some views would be filtered by vegetation and some partially screened by the likes of the ASOS Fulfilment Centre.

Whilst the assessment acknowledges that proposals for the brownfield site, within an area of commercial activity, would not look out of place, the proposals do include mitigation measures to help reduce views of the facility. These include:

- Retaining boundary vegetation where possible

- Retaining hedgerow trees where possible
- Maintaining the existing topography of the site where possible
- Planting woodland, tree, shrub and grassland to the 'rural' northern and western boundaries
- Proposed indigenous tree, shrub and hedgerow planting along the eastern site boundary
- Provision of a pond/wetland area providing landscape and ecological improvements to the area adjacent to the Dearne Valley Country Park
- A large area of off-site landscape improvements through a planting scheme on Harworth Estates land to the south of the site.
- Careful selection of building materials and colour palettes to make sure the facility is sympathetic to its surroundings

The proposed mitigation planting will mature over time and help screen the lower level activities on site and integrate the facility within its surroundings.

4. Continued engagement

i. Latest engagement activity

Whilst Peel Environmental notes that the proposals have not significantly changed since the original application was consulted on and subsequently submitted to BMBC, it does recognise the importance of continuing to update stakeholders on the progress of the plans and answer any questions that may arise.

In this context, the applicant is committed to informing and updating those who have previously taken an interest in the proposal to outline the content of the revised application and provide an opportunity to engage with the project team. Around submission of the application for the REC at the former Houghton Main Colliery site, Peel Environmental will:

- **Update letters**

Letters will be issued by post and email to key stakeholders explaining the details of the proposed development and providing contact details of the project team. Recipients include:

1. Ward and neighbouring ward members on Barnsley Council
2. The relevant member of parliament for the site
3. The parish council and neighbouring parish councils for the site
4. All those who participated in the original consultation and left contact details

- **Press Release**

In order to publicise Peel Environmental's revised application to a wider audience, the applicant will issue a press release to local media outlets including the Barnsley Chronicle, Barnsley Gazette and other web titles.

- **Website and contact channels**

Peel Environmental will update its dedicated webpage for the project (www.peel.co.uk/houghtonmain) to include the latest information. Contact channels, including the Freephone information line, dedicated email and Freepost address will be maintained and the applicant will continue to respond to enquiries.

- **Offers to meet**

The project team will offer to meet/present to key stakeholders – including the parish council and ward members for the site in issued correspondence.

5. Conclusion

i. Post submission activity

As detailed in this Addendum to the Consultation Report, Peel Environmental has made every effort to carry out a robust and effective consultation on plans for a REC at the former Houghton Main Colliery site. Plans for this aspect of the original development have not significantly altered and, as such, have been developed with regard to feedback received throughout consultation with stakeholders and members of the community.

Peel Environmental, and development partner Northern Bio Power, are keen to be a good neighbour and therefore will continue to engage and respond to enquiries about the application following submission to BMBC. The project team will maintain project specific contact channels while the local authority reviews the application and will consider all reasonable requests for further information from interested parties.

Once submitted, the application documents and supporting information will be made available to download from the project webpage (www.peel.co.uk/houghtonmain)

6. Appendices

- i. Consultation Report from original Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park application



Statement of Community Involvement

Planning Application for the Development of Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park (comprising a Timber Resource Recovery Centre and an Anaerobic Digestion Facility) Including Associated Infrastructure

Land off Houghton Main Colliery Roundabout, Park Spring Road, Houghton Main, Barnsley

Peel Environmental Management (UK) Limited and Houghton Main Waste Limited



Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park

CONSULTATION REPORT

April 2014

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1. Introduction

This report details the consultation programme within the local community undertaken by Peel Environmental Management UK Ltd (Peel Environmental), in partnership with Tamar Energy and Northern Bio Power on plans for the Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park, Barnsley, South Yorkshire. Consultation on the application took place between February 2014 and May 2014.

The proposed Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park would include an Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facility and a Timber Resource Recovery Centre (TRRC) and generate renewable heat and power from biomass materials such as waste wood and left-over food products. The proposed AD facility would accept up to 60,000 tonnes of organic feedstock each year to create 3MW of electricity. The TRRC would use gasification technology to create up to 20 MW of energy from 150,000 tonnes of biomass materials. If built, the Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park would be located on the former Houghton Main Colliery site off the roundabout of the A6195 Park Spring Road, near Little Houghton.

The purpose of carrying out consultation on the application was to ensure that the local community was aware of and informed about the application as it progressed and developed. Engaging with the local community from an early stage allows for sustained and meaningful consultation where the feedback received can help to shape the application as it develops. Early engagement also helps to address queries and concerns from the outset, helping to contribute to an informed debate about an application.

The programme included the following methods of engagement:

- A launch newsletter was hand delivered to all addresses in Little Houghton, with representatives of the project team knocking on 380 doors to raise awareness and inform residents about the proposal, the upcoming public information days, and answer any of their questions or queries. Additionally the newsletter was posted via Royal Mail to 1364 residential and business addresses in Great Houghton and properties in Darfield, to the north of Saltersbrook Road.
- Launch letters were sent to local elected representatives to inform them about the application and to offer them a meeting with key project team members to discuss the application in more detail. Post-information day letters were sent to attendees who requested to be kept informed. These letters provided information on the main points of discussion from the public information day
- Two public information days (both held into the evening) with a preview session for elected representatives was held at the Sandhill Golf Club in Little Houghton following the launch of the application. Exhibition

materials provided attendees with information on the scheme, and members of the project team were on hand to answer questions and queries

- Feedback forms were provided at the public information days for completion and return on the day or return via the Freepost address included on the form. Respondents were invited to express which aspects of the application they were most interested in, as well as encouraged to register their views about the scheme more generally. Respondents were also provided with an option to be kept updated about the application
- Community contact points were set up, including a Freephone Information Line, Freepost address and an email address. Enquiries received through these channels were logged, and responses provided where necessary
- A dedicated web page on the Peel Environmental website was set up for the Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park. This included information on the proposals, and was updated as the application progressed. Following submission and validation of the planning application, all planning application documents will be uploaded onto the webpage
- Meetings with local politicians and other key stakeholders were held to provide them with information and, where necessary, keep them updated on the application as it progressed
- The public launch, information days and other key points were publicised via the local media through briefings with local journalists and issuing press releases

The approach outlined above was detailed in a Statement of Engagement (see Appendix 1) issued to Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council in January 2014. Peel Environmental intends to continue engagement with all interested parties regarding the application as it progresses.

This report outlines the methods Peel Environmental employed, the feedback generated and how this has shaped the application. It is submitted in support of the full planning application for the Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park.

2. Community Consultation and the Role of Engagement

Planning shapes the places where people work and live, therefore it is only right that people should be given the opportunity to take an active role in the planning process.

Peel Environmental recognises that community involvement is an integral and important component of planning and its approach to consultation with the local community reflects this. The proposal for the Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park has been informed by latest Government policy including the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Localism Act 2011.

The previous Government made it clear in the guidance accompanying the legislation that developers should be encouraged to undertake effective community engagement, particularly on major developments. Since the introduction of the Localism Act by the Coalition Government, community consultation and involvement has taken an even greater role, with the emphasis now on putting greater “power in the hands of local people, rather than regional bodies.”

i. **National**

National Policy on Consultation

The Government has made it clear that it expects developers to engage with local communities at an early stage in the planning process by front loading pre-application engagement.

The Localism Act 2011 introduced the provisions for the statutory requirement for developers in England to consult local communities before submitting planning applications for certain types of development. The Act also allows the Secretary of State to make detailed provisions about the way such pre-application consultation should be undertaken.

Whilst statutory consultation for developments such as the Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park has not yet been brought forward by the Government the Act provides an indication of best practice consultation. This includes:

- Publicise the proposed application locally and give a timetable for the consultation;
- Have regard to advice given by the local planning authority about local good practice in undertaking consultation; and
- Take account of the responses to the consultation when submitting the application.

The need for pre-application consultation has also been reinforced by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published in March 2012. Although the NPPF does not include specific waste policies, as these will be outlined in the National Waste Management Plan for England, local authorities are advised to have regard to policies when considering waste applications. Paragraph 188 of the NPPF states that:

“Early engagement has significant potential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system for all parties. Good quality pre-application discussion enables better coordination between public and private resources and outcomes for the community.”

Paragraph 189 of the NPPF goes on to suggest that local planning authorities should encourage those applicants, who are not already required to do so by law, to engage with the local community before submitting their applications.

All local planning authorities are required by law to adopt a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) setting out how consultation takes place on planning issues. Most SCIs also provide guidance to developers on how they should undertake pre-application consultation within the local community.

ii. Local

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act requires each local planning authority to prepare a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), which will formally set out its commitment to ensure the involvement of the public in planning matters.

Barnsley Council's SCI was adopted in September 2006. Under Barnsley's SCI, developers are encouraged to engage in pre-application discussions with the local authority. Prior to the submission of a Request for a Scoping Opinion and the public launch of the application, Peel Environmental met with Barnsley Council planning officers to discuss the proposal and the approach to consultation.

The SCI recommends that various activities should be considered including: writing to local people, public exhibitions or meetings, local surgeries, workshops, involving the parish or town council, briefing the local media and using a website.

iii. PPS Group and Consultation

PPS Group is an independent communications company that specialises in community consultation relating to planning applications. PPS Group was one of the first companies to understand the need for consultation on planning applications and has become an expert at developing tailored programmes to ensure that its community consultations contribute positively to the planning process. PPS Group is an active member of both the Association of Professional Political Consultants, which promotes transparency and openness in public affairs consultancies, through the promotion of a strong

ethical code, and the Consultation Institute, which helps all those engaged in public and stakeholder consultation to absorb and promote best practice.

PPS Group has acted on numerous community consultations on major planning issues up and down the country and across almost all development sectors, and indeed has a specialist waste and resources team. Additionally, we have assisted several local authorities in England on the drafting of their own SCIs, and north of the border we have advised the Scottish Executive on how consultation can be better incorporated into the Scottish planning system.

3. Methodology and Programme

i. Methodology

Peel Environmental’s consultation programme was devised to ensure stakeholders and the local community were provided with every opportunity to provide their views on the proposal. The exercise was designed and organised in line with Barnsley Council’s SCI and PPS Group’s principles of consultation.

The PPS Consultation Plan enables applicants to demonstrate how they have met the demands of the SCI, encourages constructive dialogue with interested stakeholders and demonstrates how that dialogue has subsequently influenced the application.

Principle	Importance
Notify stakeholders of the consultation programme	Notification must be comprehensive: the community must be made aware of the consultation programme along with a timescale of different activities. It is not desired that an individual or group emerge at the end of the process feeling they have been excluded.
Inform those being consulted about the proposal and the constraints of the site	Having notified people of the consultation process, information is then provided on the background of the proposed development and any constraints which may be influential, for example, planning, geographical, technical and financial.
Consult with the public and stakeholders and get their views	Members of the public and key stakeholder groups to liaise with the project team and put forward ideas and aspirations for the development. Methods can vary widely from newsletters and websites to exhibitions. Our approach is explained in the later sections of this document.
Measure responses and analyse the results	Having allowed an acceptable timeframe for everyone with an interest to comment, the results are then quantified using both qualitative and quantitative techniques.
Report back to the local community about the views that were expressed	Feedback is then analysed and the results publicised within the community and through stakeholder groups to keep consultees informed throughout the process.

<p>Respond by amending the proposal where sensible</p>	<p>The developer responds to the views of the community and incorporates changes into the scheme where appropriate. It is important to try to include as much input from consultees as possible. This may involve, not only making amendments to the scheme, but also recording how much of the feedback accords with the original thinking about the site</p>
<p>Publish details of the revised scheme and how the consultation programme has influenced it</p>	<p>At the conclusion of the programme, a full Consultation Assessment Report will be submitted to the Council as part of the planning application. This document will demonstrate how the programme has been implemented, and the resultant implications for the scheme. Records of all feedback will also be made available to the Council and open to public scrutiny.</p>

ii. Stakeholders

As part of the consultation, various local stakeholders in the vicinity of or with a likely interest in the Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park application site were identified. These can be broadly categorised into:

- Local residents - Residents of the villages of Little Houghton, Great Houghton and Darfield
- Local businesses – Businesses in the close vicinity of the site
- Local politicians – Elected representatives for the site and surrounding areas
- Local stakeholders – Groups or organisations with an interest in the site and surrounding areas

iii. Engagement

In order to ensure that the consultation carried out was as open and accessible as possible to the identified stakeholder groups, Peel Environmental implemented a range of engagement tools. These are detailed below.

Scoping with Barnsley Council and statutory consultees

In accordance with Section 13(1) of the EIA Regulations, a scoping request was submitted to Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC) on 10th February 2014. BMBC issued their Scoping Opinion Response (ref 2014/ENQ/00148) on 10 April 2014. The scoping report submission was informed by consultation with the following organisations:

- Following pre-application consultation initiated by BMBC with the Environment Agency, a written response was received on 23rd December 2013, a meeting was held on 19 February to discuss flood risk issues being examined in the Flood Risk Assessment;

- Yorkshire Water responded on 23rd December 2013 detailing its requirements in relation to waste water and water supply, which have informed development of the flood risk assessment and surface water management scheme;
- The South Yorkshire Mining Advisory Service responded to the scoping consultation with its views on 6th January 2014 and the Coal Authority responded on 19th December 2013. Both responses informed the development of the hydrogeology report and coal mining risk assessment;
- Other views were forwarded from within BMBC including those of the Bio-diversity Officer, Drainage and Highways Officer and Regeneration Department. These informed the scoping submission, subsequent relevant technical assessment and final proposals included within the planning application.

Pre-application discussions with Barnsley Council

A significant amount of general pre-application consultation and discussion has taken place including, but not limited to:

- On 6 January 2014, Peel and its planning advisors met with the Leader of BMBC, Sir Stephen Houghton, and senior officers, to discuss the proposal;
- On 29 January 2014, Peel and its planning advisors held a formal pre-application round table meeting with BMBC planning staff and key consultees. The meeting was part of a formal pre-application advice process undertaken for the proposed development. This process included consultation on the proposal with a number of consultees at pre-application stage. The planning process and the proposed development were discussed with the BMBC officers;
- On 27 February 2014, Peel and its planning advisors held a follow up pre-application meeting with BMBC planning staff;
- On 4 March, Peel and its design team presented the design rationale behind the project to the Barnsley Urban Renaissance Design Advisory Panel. The Panel was presented with the design development process undertaken and agreed that the adopted 'form follows function' design approach was appropriate.
- On 10 April, Peel and its planning advisors held a further follow up pre-application meeting with BMBC staff to discuss planning and regeneration issues.

As well as these meetings, members of the project team have remained in regular liaison with officers from various technical disciplines via phone and email regarding the application.

In order to establish the suitability of the proposed pre-application consultation, Peel Environmental submitted a Statement of Engagement (see Appendix 1) to Barnsley Council.

Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park website

A dedicated page of Peel Environmental's website was created to provide web visitors with information about the project. This can be viewed at <http://www.peel.co.uk/houghtonmain> (see Appendix 2).

The project specific web page provided: an introduction to the project, information about the proposed technologies to be used at the Energy Park, how the consultation would be run and details of potential benefits of the proposals if granted approval.

Community Contact Points

Peel Environmental operates a set of community contact points for the Houghton Main Energy Park application, which are hosted by PPS Group. This includes a Freephone information line; a Freepost address; and dedicated email address. The details of all these points of contact, including the project website, were included on all distributed public materials, such as the community newsletter.

The Freephone information line (0800 170 1418) was operated during office hours (9am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday), with an answerphone message for out of hours, and provides a direct line of communication to the project team. All calls were answered and responded to by PPS Group working on behalf of Peel Environmental. Enquiries received via the Freepost address (FREEPOST RSKS-SBBE-LHHZ, c/o PPS Group, 30-32 Charlotte Street, Manchester, M1 4FD) and the dedicated email addresses were responded to promptly and appropriately. A holding response was issued to enquiries that required a response which took longer to collate.

Stakeholder letters

During the launch of the application, Peel Environmental wrote to key elected representatives to introduce the proposal, promote the upcoming public information days (which included an elected member preview session) and offer a meeting to discuss the proposals further. The elected officials included borough and parish councillors and the local MP. The full list of these representatives can be found in Appendix 3.

Community Newsletter

A four-page community newsletter was produced which included information about the project and upcoming public information days (see Appendix 4). Representatives of Peel Environmental were in Little Houghton on Thursday 27th February 2014 to hand-deliver leaflets to 380 homes and business in the village and knock on residents' doors to introduce the scheme and let them know about the forthcoming information days to encourage their attendance.

This approach provided the opportunity for representatives of Peel Environmental's project team to speak to the local community first-hand about the proposals and answer any immediate queries and concerns. Engaging with the local community at the first opportunity allowed the project team to better understand the likely points of interest and concern about the application and the likely topics of discussion at the information days. Several copies of the newsletter were provided at community venues, such as the social club, golf club and convenience stores. Additionally the newsletter was posted via Royal Mail to 1364 residential and business addresses in Great Houghton and properties in Darfield, to the north of Saltersbrook Road.

The newsletter provided information on the proposed Houghton Main Energy Park and sought to provide an introduction to the project and information on the Environmental Impact Assessment which would be undertaken. The newsletter contained specific information on the technologies that would be used at the Energy Park, the site and the benefits of the application. Additional information included details of the public information day dates, the venue and times and community contact points. The newsletter also included visual information to give a clearer indication of what the proposals will look like and the location of the site. Images used included an artist's impression of the Energy Park, the site layout, a site map and a map showing the location of the information days venue.

Following distribution of the newsletter, it was then made available to download from the dedicated Houghton Main Energy Park website as a PDF via <http://www.peel.co.uk/houghtonmain>

Peel Environmental intends to update the community following submission of the application.

Public Information Days

Two, one day drop-in public information days were held at Sandhill Golf Club in Little Houghton. The purpose of these events, held over two consecutive weekdays from 2-8pm, was to provide the local community with information about the proposals, and the opportunity to speak to members of the project team directly. Eight members of staff attended both days to answer attendee questions and expand on the information regarding the project provided in ten large exhibition boards on display within the venue (see Appendix 5).

The exhibition boards highlighted information about the site and why the land had been identified by Peel Environmental for development, the vision for the site, the proposed technologies and processes, the potential benefits if consented and how members of the public could engage with the application through the consultation process. Following the event, the exhibition boards were also available to download from the Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park webpage of the Peel Environmental website via <http://www.peel.co.uk/houghtonmain>.

The public information days provided an opportunity for interested parties to pose questions directly to the project team. The launch stakeholder letter invited elected representatives to a stakeholder preview event which was held on Tuesday 12th March between 1pm-2pm. Copies of the previously circulated launch community newsletter were also made available for attendees to take away with them.

The public information days were held at Sandhill Golf Club on Wednesday 12th March and Thursday 13th March 2014 both held between 2pm and 8pm. The time of the information days made sure that residents who work during the day could still attend.

The public information days were attended by 78 people in total; 50 on Wednesday and 28 on Thursday. The event was widely publicised via the local newsletter distribution and a launch press release issued to the local media (see Press

Releases). Upon arrival at Sandhill Golf Club, visitors were asked to sign in and provide their contact details if they wished to be kept informed about the progress of the planning application.

The sign in sheet allowed Peel Environmental to assess the reach of the consultation and identify which communities attendees were from. Over the two events, the majority of attendees were from Great Houghton whilst the second most represented area was Little Houghton, followed by Darfield. Attendees also visited from Middlecliff, Wombwell, Grimethorpe, Market Rasen, Rawmarch, Sheffield, Broomhill, Brampton and Billingley. This data has been extracted via the sign in sheets; the sign in sheets were signed by 42 of the 78 attendees. Therefore 36 attendees that attended the information days did not provide information on where they had travelled from.

The majority of attendees took the opportunity to speak to the members of the project team in attendance, with the main topics of interest being traffic and transport; the technology; air quality; jobs; and community benefit. A number of attendees took copies of the community newsletter home.

Before the event on Wednesday 12th March, an hour long stakeholder preview session was held. Representatives were invited to attend the preview session by letters, which were followed up with phone calls to encourage attendance. The preview event provided an opportunity to view the proposals before their constituents, allowing for members of the project team to address any issues or questions they may raise.

In response to a number of individual enquiries received during the information days, members of the project committed to follow-up actions and contacting stakeholders with the requested information.

The findings and analysis from the information days can be found in the following sections of this document.

Feedback Forms

Feedback forms were provided during the information days and all attendees were encouraged to complete a form either on site, or to take one away for return via the Freepost address. In total 32 completed feedback forms were received, most of which were completed and returned at the information days. A copy of the feedback form can be seen in Appendix 6

Meetings Programme

During the consultation period, Peel Environmental contacted a number of local stakeholders and offered them meetings to discuss the proposal in greater detail. This resulted in face-to-face meetings with:

- Leader of Barnsley Council and Council Officers
- The Member of Parliament for Barnsley East
- Darfield ward councillors

- Great Houghton Parish Council
- Sheffield City Region Local Enterprise Partnership – Dearne Valley Eco Vision
- ASOS

Further meetings have also been scheduled, but have yet to take place, with Little Houghton Parish Council and the Leeds City Region Local Enterprise Partnership.

Press Releases

At the launch of the project a press release was issued to media outlets to provide an overview of the proposed development. The press release also publicised the venues, dates and times for the information days, intended to reach a wider audience. Members of the project team also met with reporters at the Barnsley Chronicle to brief them on the scheme and provide further details about the application. Media coverage of the press release can be found in Appendix 7.

After the information days, a second press release was issued which provided an update on the number of attendees at the events, and an overview of the feedback received. This follow-up release served to inform a wider audience about the key areas of interest and provide the project team contact details for those who may have been unable to attend.

A final press release will be sent out following submission of the planning application which will provide details of the final application and how the feedback received during consultation helped shape it, as well as information on how to take part in Barnsley Council's formal consultation on the application. The press releases and a selection of media coverage can be viewed in Appendix 7.

Community update

A community bulletin was circulated to those who took part in the consultation. This provided an update on the progress of the application preparation, provided information regarding potential employment opportunities and included the community contact points to encourage consultees to contact the project team. The bulletin, issued via post and email, was sent to all those who participated in the consultation and provided their details to be kept updated, as well as local stakeholders. The community bulletin can be viewed in Appendix 8.

4. Findings and feedback

i. Introduction and Feedback Forms

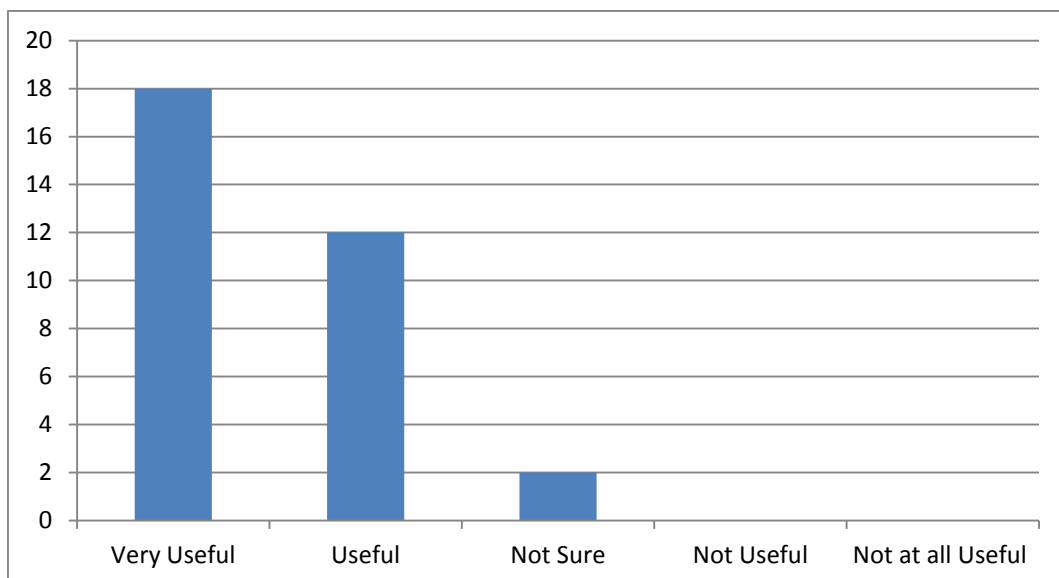
This section of the report details the findings gathered from the completed feedback forms which were submitted to Peel Environmental. Everyone who attended the public information days was offered a feedback form which offered them the opportunity to give specific feedback as well as general comments. Throughout the event many attendees also relayed verbal feedback.

This information represents 'informed opinion' as attendees were given the feedback forms once they had viewed the exhibition and been given the opportunity to converse with members of the project team. Feedback was also received through the community contact points including telephone calls, emails and letters through the post.

ii. Public Information Days

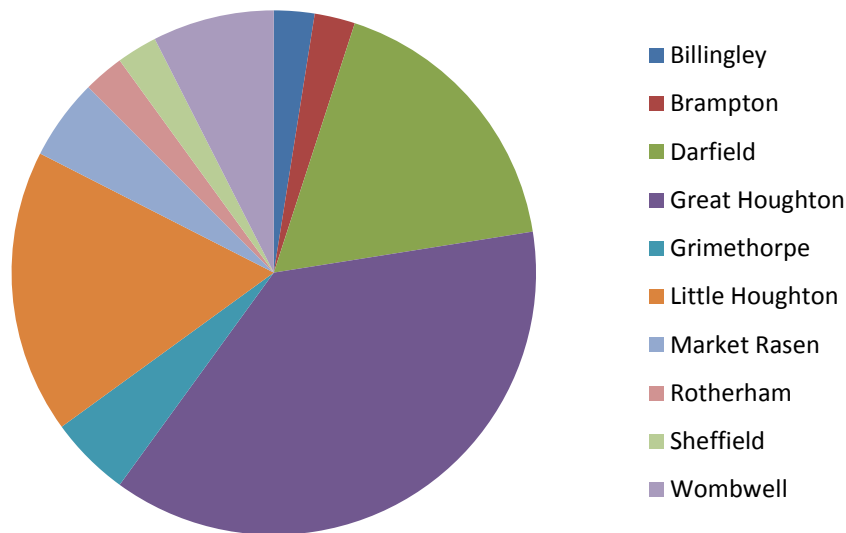
Data collected at both events was logged and analysed following the public information days. The following results also include the feedback forms sent to Peel Environmental via the Freepost and email address.

The majority of those who filled out a feedback form found the information day either useful or very useful. This can be seen from responses to the question, **“Did You find today’s Information Day useful?”** which are detailed below.



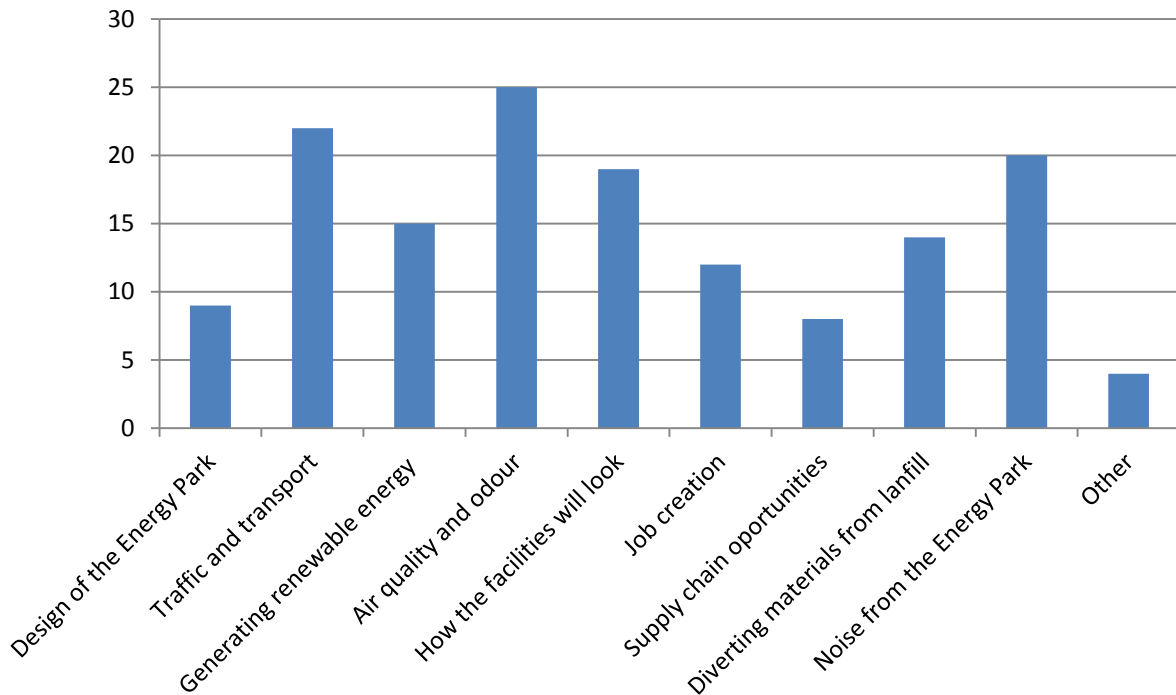
Overall 56% of respondents felt that the information day was “very useful”, whilst 37% of respondents felt that the day was useful. Only 6% of respondents were not sure if the information day was useful and no respondents indicated that the day was not useful. Therefore, overall 93% of respondents found the information days useful.

Sandhill Golf Club was chosen as a venue for the information days, as it is a well-used community venue which is easily accessed from both Little Houghton and Great Houghton – the nearest communities to the site. The most represented community at the information days was Great Houghton, with 15 out of the 42 people who signed in from this area. The second largest attendee groups were residents from Little Houghton and Darfield. The below pie chart demonstrates the locations of those who provide their address on entry to the information days, with additional locations including Wombwell, Grimethorpe and Brampton.



The feedback form served two main purposes, the primary being that it allowed local residents and stakeholders to give their views and opinions on the application. A secondary purpose of the form is that it has allowed Peel Environmental to assess which aspects of the proposal are most important to the local community.

The feedback received helped to shape the responses and information provided throughout the consultation to ensure that these aspects were fully addressed. For this reason the attendees were also asked **“Which areas of the development do you feel are most important?”** In order to assess this question a range of options were provided to attendees, who were asked to tick the listed aspects of application which they were most concerned with. The bar chart below illustrates the feedback received on this question.



The feedback received shows that the main areas of interest to respondents were: traffic and transport; air quality and odour; noise; and how the facilities will look.

Air quality and odour was ranked as the most important aspect by attendees, with 78% of respondents (25 out of 32) selecting this option. The other aspects identified as most important to attendees were traffic and transport (68%), noise from the Energy Park (62%) and how the facilities will look (56%). Generating renewable energy, diverting materials from landfill and job creation were also popular choices amongst those who completed feedback forms.

The feedback form also provided respondents with a blank space to make general comments about the proposed development. Comments received were logged and reviewed and are available to view below. The comments received were broadly in line with the above aspects, with respondents expanding on their selections and providing a general overview of the communities' views on the application. Where possible, these have been split into categories below.

Visual impact

Although air quality and odour was the main area of interest from the tick list, visual impact – in particular the treatment of the proposed Energy Park and how it will fit within its surroundings – garnered the most comments from attendees. Those who responded called for the project team to carefully consider the treatment and colour of the Energy Park buildings, as well as suggesting exploring the potential for screening. Comments include:

- “Colour of buildings.”

- “Very impressed with your architect - an honest professional. Do your best to hide it on the horizon! We asked lots of questions and got honest (I hope) answers. We were reassured. I have asked for a further view point to be taken to show from further round in the village. Other aspects of the project are then interesting if the initial ones are acceptable.”
- “Would like as much screening as possible and buildings to be in a colour which blends with the environments, i.e.; not white. I will be living directly across from what I consider will be an eyesore which will de-value my property so please bear this in mind.”
- “I still have concerns about the size of the plant and its effects on the landscape.”
- “Tree screening would be needed and no odours or smoke to be allowed up the village.”
- “Colour to blend in with the landscape. Tree planting. Help build a park with trees like at Brampton.”

Odour and air quality

Air quality, odour and emissions from the proposed Energy Park were also of interest to those who completed feedback forms. Mirroring the questions asked during the information days and the results from the feedback form tick list, respondents asked for further detail about the proposed emissions from the Energy Park and whether the facilities would produce odour. Comments include:

- “My concern is smell, noise and lighting at night along with traffic.”
- “I am still concerned about air pollution and its effect on nature.”
- “Still don’t feel entirely confident in your proposals, am concerned about the above three aspects. Not really reassured, to say there are a number of these facilities in Stoke, Birmingham etc, you didn’t give us any reassurance when you should have had the facts and figures etc.”
- “No actual facts and figures.”
- “To publish emissions from other existing sites.”
- “River environment should be kept clean and free from pollutants.”

The Information Day

In addition to making comments about the proposed development, several attendees also submitted comments about the information day itself and members of the project team present during the events. Comments include:

- “The staff were very helpful and knew their subjects. I felt it was very easy understanding what you are trying to achieve.”
- “Very impressed with the answers given to questions that I asked. Made me feel very comfortable with the facility.”
- “Well presented and staff happy to explain.”

- “I found the presentation very good and the information given was very informative.”
- “Feel better about the other aspects e.g noise, smell after visiting your information day.”

Support/Interest in renewable energy generation

Members of the project team had numerous conversations with attendees during the information days who showed an enthusiasm for renewable energy generation and were supportive of the proposed development. Respondents made comments to this effect on the feedback forms. Comments include:

- “This looks a good development that is just right for this site. I like the idea of renewable energy being provided here saving landfill. This area was once an energy producer when the mines were here, it is returning to being an energy producer on a modern scale.”
- “A good idea using recycled material which is regulated material. Promises made should be fulfilled.”
- “I am interested in all types of power production, providing there is minimal environmental impact and the power produced is reasonably priced.”
- “A very good idea if everything promised is put into practice.”

Traffic and transport

Attendees were also keen to learn if the proposed Renewable Energy Park would have an impact on local roads and how this would be considered as part of the planning application process. In particular, the capacity of roads in the surrounding area was discussed. Comments received include:

- “Still worried about impact on traffic on what are already very busy roads.”
- “Advised wouldn't have many trucks running through rush hour but the board said expected between 8am and 6pm. I think it needs to be looked at to delivery 9am - 4.30pm to prevent extra traffic on the already busy Dearne Valley Parkway.”

Other

Additional comments were also made regarding noise, community benefit, waste contracts and an interest in the supply chain opportunities. Comments include:

- “What noise is acceptable.”
- “Super fast broadband needs to be continued down from Middlecliffe Lane for locals. Delivering local jobs. A childrens' park would be good to give something back to the local community in Little Houghton on the existing park

location as the existing is not useable. Cycle paths should be upgraded along frontage of the proposed development, as it has not been finished to bridge over A6195.”

- “With regards to the AD material, I have a concern that the council will be tempted to be a raw materials supplier. This in my own opinion would mean we all will get a container for food waste. Two points - we have five containers now and who will control the accompanying vermin!! I don't have much faith in the council doing it.”
- “Interested from an agricultural point of view also about feeding the AD on excess whey product from cheese, also by-product from AD to spread on farm land.”

As was intended, the information days prompted attendees to ask a wide variety of questions regarding the application, all of which were responded to verbally at the events by members of the project team. This feedback proved valuable and helped shape future discussions with key stakeholders, such as parish councillors.

In addition to recording and reviewing the feedback forms, Peel Environmental also committed to a number of follow-up actions arising from the information days. This included providing more information to those who had requested it, setting up further face-to-face meetings and generating additional artist's impressions of the facility from the viewpoint of properties to the north of Darfield and Great Houghton.

iii. Feedback from Community Contact Points

During the consultation, Peel Environmental operated a Freephone information line, Freepost address and dedicated email address, all of which were publicised on materials throughout the consultation.

Most of the enquiries were received from stakeholders or residents who had been informed about the proposed and requested additional information about certain aspects. Enquiries ranged from information about job opportunities; odour; safety; regulation; and details about the proposed technology.

Peel Environmental ensured that each enquiry was dealt with in a timely manner and that the appropriate information was provided. Where enquiries required a reasonable amount of information gathering, holding responses were issued.

5. Outcomes

i. Pre-application Consultation Feedback

The application for the proposed Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park has progressed and evolved throughout the detailed period of pre-application consultation.

It is important to note that many of the issues raised throughout this consultation process have been dealt with in detail and at length in other documents submitted as part of the planning application. It is appropriate, however, to provide the responses to the main points raised during the consultation and detailed in the 'Findings and Feedback' section of this report.

Changes to the scheme following consultation

Following consultation, a number of changes to the application have been made. These are:

- Celebrate the development through the selection of materials
- Use a 'camouflage' colour palette
- Take forward the 'consolidated massing' design as it offered a refined aesthetic as this was considered to be more appropriate to mitigating its visual impact
- The retention, replacement and improvement of landscape boundary treatments, including shrubs and ornamental trees to provide low level screening and soften the development with the landscape.

The main areas of interest and how Peel Environmental responded can be found below:

Visual Impact and Building Design

Those who participated in the consultation were keen to learn how visible the Energy Park would be from the surrounding villages and what the building would look like. Peel Environmental received comments regarding visual impact on the feedback forms and responded verbally to questions during the public information days.

It was explained that, as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment, a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment would be undertaken to examine the profile of the facility from key viewpoints. It was explained that owing to the equipment to be housed in the proposed buildings, the Anaerobic Digestion facility will be around 15 metres tall, whilst the tallest point of the Timber Resource Recovery Centre (the process hall) will be around 30m.

Various artist's impressions have been developed to show what the buildings could look like when in place. Several viewpoints from around the site were considered and following requests from individuals at the public information days additional viewpoints have been developed.

The Design Review Panel

On the 4th March 2014 we presented the Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park project to the Barnsley Urban Renaissance Design Advisory Panel, an independent design panel who offer advice to designers to help develop schemes into those with a high design quality that may be supportable for planning approval in design terms. The Panel were presented with the design development process undertaken and agreed that the adopted 'form follows function' design approach was appropriate. The majority of panellists also supported the 'consolidated massing' design being developed. However, the Panel considered that seeking to blend the building into its surroundings to help mitigate its visual impact was not necessarily the most appropriate approach and advised that we should consider making more of an architectural statement, and one which confidently celebrated the purpose of the facility. The final report recording the Panel's review identified a number of recommendations:

- Design a simple, celebratory expression of what is going on inside the buildings and structures; express as much as possible as a linear process;
- Study new 'closer up' views and look at how the development meets the edge and the levels to help inform the design;
- Study the glimpse views from Doncaster Road to help inform the design;
- Consider off site planting to foreshorten views if defence in depth is required;
- In the precedent studies include research into local industrial architecture, both present day and historical;
- Consider the involvement of an artist to help open up ideas and extend experience of the sculptural expression of the development.

These were taken forward by the team into Stage 2 Design Development work and were reviewed as part of that process and our responses to these advisory comments is covered under that section of the Design and Access Statement.

Design Changes - Colour

Feedback from the consultation and public information exhibition was for the preference for us to seek to 'camouflage' the REP facility. It was also clear that from several viewpoints the REP would in the most part be read against a landscape background rather than one of sky. All of this was very much reflected by that concluded by the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA). The resulting change to the scheme should celebrate the development through the selection of building materials and colour palette, which ensures that the facility is sympathetic to its surroundings. This would allow the buildings facades to contrast with the sky and appear clean and crisp, reinforcing the refined aesthetic of the building forms.

Design changes – Screening

Feedback received through the consultation period discussed the visual impact of the development, and as a consequence screening mitigation measures have been considered. Careful consideration has been given to the use of off-site planting to

mitigate the visual impact of the REP and there is potential, with land owner's agreement, to provide additional mitigation in the form of additional or improved field boundary treatments and the planting up of redundant, poor quality or uneconomic areas of land.

Although the Design Panel suggested that the development could be designed to make an architectural statement, feedback from the public exhibitions did not mirror this, and the visual impact of the site was a greater issue. Whilst it is accepted that a facility of this nature cannot be screened by conventional landscape mitigation, the location of the facility adjacent to an existing, and much larger structure [ASOS], as well as the careful selection of building materials and colour palette have ensured that the facility would, as far as possible, be sympathetic to its surroundings. Furthermore, the retention, improvement and replacement of landscape boundary treatments would provide screening of low level activities such as vehicle movements and lights etc. as well as softening the development with the introduction of a landscape framework.

Air Quality and Odour

Air Quality was a significant area of interest from respondents, which was again backed up by the comments received on feedback forms; during the door-to-door newsletter drop and public information days; and from the enquiries received via the community contact points. It was explained to attendees at the public exhibition and in the community newsletter that the Environmental Impact Assessment would consider air quality.

Modelling was undertaken to assess the effect of emissions from the proposed facility, taking into account factors such as other development in the local area. The assessments concluded that during construction there is the potential for dust and it will therefore be necessary to introduce a range of mitigation measures such as erecting screens and barriers around dusty activity, covering stockpiles, locating dust-causing activities away from receptors etc. With measures such as these in place within a Dust Management Plan, it is expected that any effects will be insignificant. During operation the potential impacts on local air quality and sensitive ecosystems are considered to be minimal.

Respondents were also interested in how odours would be controlled at the Anaerobic Digestion facility. This was an issue that was raised on feedback forms; during the door-to-door newsletter drop and public information days; and from the enquiries received via the community contact points.

It was explained to attendees at the public information day and in the community newsletter that odour would be considered as part of the EIA and several mitigation measures would be in place to safeguard against any potential negative impacts. All the feedstock would be taken directly into a reception hall which is fitted with fast acting shutter doors and kept under negative pressure, to suck air into the building and prevent odours escaping. Any liquids taken to the site would be delivered in sealed storage tanks. The air from within the reception hall is all passed through an odour control plant prior to its release, ensuring odour is kept within the plant at all times. The Anaerobic Digestion takes place in entirely sealed containers which also prevents any smells escaping. There would be no outdoor processing, storage, or handling of materials at any time. The assessments concluded that the potential effects of odour during the operation of the facility are minimal.

Traffic and Transport

Traffic and Transport was raised at the public information days, as well as enquiries received via the community contact points. Concerns were raised regarding the potential for congestion at nearby roundabouts and junction capacity.

It was explained to attendees that a comprehensive Traffic and Transport Assessment was being undertaken as part of the EIA. This looked at the existing levels of traffic on the local road network and the likely impact of Energy Park traffic. One of the benefits of the site is its direct access onto the A6195 Park Spring Road, meaning that vehicles can avoid travelling through villages such as Little Houghton. Vehicles will enter the site via an existing exit on the Houghton Main Colliery Roundabout, which will be improved as part of the proposed development. All Energy Park traffic will use this entrance, however each facility will have its own on-site entrance, gate and weighbridge.

Maximum vehicle figures were used to assess the impact of this traffic, meaning that the figures presented to the local community represented 'worst case scenario' figures. This assessment established that there will be up to 65 HGVs accessing the facility each day or 130 HGV movements (65 in, 65 out). It also established that there will be up to 25 light vehicles accessing the site each day (50 movements) of other including staff, visitors and maintenance vehicles. It was explained to attendees that if industrial units were to be developed at the site, for which planning permission exists, it could generate an estimated 768 vehicle movements every day. Deliveries are expected between normal working hours, for example between 7am and 7pm, Monday to Friday, and on Saturday mornings. No HGV movements to and from the site will normally be permitted on Sundays or Bank Holidays.

The type of development proposed, whilst not generating substantial volumes of traffic, will include HGV traffic required for the transport of materials to the site, and to a lesser extent, exports from the site. The operators have control over these movements and have agreed to implement management strategies to minimise the impact of HGV movements on residential amenity and highway operation during critical periods. This could include restrictions to the time periods in which deliveries to and exports from the site would take place to avoid peak traffic periods, to restrict deliveries so that they normally be within normal working hours, and to prepare routing plans to ensure deliveries use the most appropriate roads to access the site.

A full Transport Assessment has been produced for the proposal. The Transport Assessment considers the impact of the proposal on the A1695 Park Spring Road and site access. The Transport Assessment shows that the development will have a minimal impact on the surrounding highway network and will generate less traffic than would be associated with the existing planning permission for the site.

At the request of BMBC, the impact at the Broomhill and Cathill Roundabouts is also included within the Transport Assessment. The effects of the development proposal are detailed in full in the Transport Assessment. The Transport

Assessment demonstrates that changes in traffic movements arising from the proposed development can be accommodated on the local highway network and that changes in traffic flow will be unnoticeable.

Whilst the assessment shows that the proposal will have a negligible impact in terms of transport, measures are still proposed to reduce any potential impact, including a travel plan and a HGV movement strategy.

Support for renewable energy

Members of the community were keen to learn about the proposed technology and asked questions regarding the purpose and need for the Energy Park. Members of the project team explained that the application is being brought forward against a backdrop of increasing demand for renewable energy in the UK. The proposed Energy Park would generate up to 23MW of renewable electricity (enough energy to power up to 55,000 homes¹) contributing to and helping diversify the UK's energy generation capacity.

There was enthusiasm from a number of attendees at the public information days and during meetings with stakeholders to use the site for renewable energy generation, particularly given the history of the site as a colliery.

Job creation and supply chain opportunities

Several members of the community enquired about the job opportunities at the Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park and communicated their interest during the newsletter drop and public information days. Job creation was also raised consistently during stakeholder meetings.

The Energy Park will create up to 30 jobs during operation and up to 200 jobs during construction. Peel Environmental and the wider project team have committed to working with local employment agencies and other organisations to ensure that the job opportunities at the site are advertised to local people. Peel Environmental is committed to supporting local recruitment and working with local job centres to ensure local jobseekers have opportunities to apply for the available roles. Supplier Days may also be used as a way to give opportunities to local businesses to supply services and materials into the construction and operation of the Renewable Energy Park.

The socio-economic statement accompanying the planning application demonstrates that direct job creation will bring benefits to the local economy. The jobs created during the construction and operational phases of the development will provide a mix of skilled jobs well-suited to the skills available locally.

It is also hoped that the development will act as catalyst to attract other businesses to the area surrounding the Energy Park, helping to boost the local economy. It will help to meet the challenge laid out in BMBC's 'Refreshed Economic Strategy: The Jobs and Business Growth Plan' to grow the local economy. The Renewable Energy Park will add significant renewable

¹ *Ofgem Typical domestic energy consumption figures 18.1.2011 of 3,300 kWh per household

energy generation capacity to the local area, which addresses a growing concern of UK businesses about energy costs, supply and security. Located in this part of Barnsley, the Renewable Energy Park, in tandem with other developments nearby, will increase the attractiveness of the location for businesses. It directly addresses the opportunities arising from low carbon energy sources identified in the Barnsley Growth Plan.

There are various supply chain opportunities that would be created by the development and during the consultation Peel Environmental received a number of enquiries from potential suppliers offering their services. There were also a number of local farmers that enquired about taking the digestate from the facility to use for land reclamation or as a fertiliser.

6. Conclusions and Next Steps

i. Conclusions

The programme of pre-application consultation detailed in this report demonstrates that Peel Environmental has taken a comprehensive and thorough approach to community engagement on its proposal to develop the Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park at the former Houghton Main Colliery site, off Park Spring Road, near Little Houghton.

Peel Environmental is committed to ensuring that local residents and stakeholders are fully informed about the proposal and has employed a wide variety of methods to ensure that residents, elected representatives and stakeholder groups had a chance to learn about the proposed development and comment as part of the consultation. This report shows that a transparent, proactive and thorough approach was adopted, with the development team striving to provide as much detail as possible in response to enquiries, both verbally and in written communication throughout the consultation.

It was important for Peel Environmental to carry through this approach from the launch of the project. The personal door knock provided a chance for all residents in the local community to speak to a member of the project team, which in turn encouraged participation in the consultation. Launching the proposals in this manner set the benchmark for the open and proactive approach and typified Peel Environmental's commitment to meaningful consultation. It is intended for such a stance to be sustained following submission of the planning application to Barnsley Council.

Peel Environmental was encouraged by the broad range of feedback subsequently expressed by all of the channels put in place as part of the consultation on plans for the Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park. All enquiries were responded to and where appropriate, this helped shaped the proposal as it progressed.

The architectural design of the REP has been the result of a detailed design development process which has been contributed to by a number of external parties, as well as shaped through the consultation process. This has been accompanied by continually tested alternative designs in photomontages. The proposed design offers a dynamic architectural response which in its form and colour treatment seeks to contextually and subtly blend the facility with its landscaped setting.

The choice of 'olive green' as the colour for the majority of buildings and structures has been determined to best mitigate its visual impact from distant views from where it is read against a landscaped backdrop. In contrast from nearby views, this dark colour also allows the REP to be read crisply against the sky and celebrates its refined functional form.

ii. Next Steps

Peel Environmental's comprehensive approach to stakeholder engagement will not be altered by the submission of the planning application. Engaging with the local community and stakeholders as the application progresses will also be an important, therefore it is intended to continue to provide updates at key project milestones as the project progresses through the planning process.

It is the intention to distribute a follow-up letter to the local community following the submission of the application, which once again will be sent to residential and business addresses in the communities closest to the Houghton Main site, namely Little Houghton, Great Houghton and selected properties in Darfield. The letter will update recipients on the outcomes of the consultation and outline the next steps for the project, as well as how they can make representations on the application going forward.

Peel Environmental is also committed to maintaining the community contact points, including the Freephone Information Line, Freepost address and enquiries email address, as the application progresses. These will be publicised at all available opportunities and enquiries received by the project team will continue to be addressed and responses provided. In addition, the dedicated project webpage will also be kept updated, whilst all application documents will be uploaded to this site and available to download in PDF format.

Other proposed post-submission activity includes adopting a proactive stance with the local media, issuing press releases at key project milestones to achieve a wider knowledge of the progress of the project.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Statement of Engagement

Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park Statement of Engagement



1. Introduction

Peel Environmental Management (UK) Ltd is proposing to develop the Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park on the former Houghton Main Colliery at Park Spring Road, Little Houghton, Barnsley.

The Renewable Energy Park will feature two facilities side-by-side on the site:

- A 60,000 tpa Anaerobic Digestion facility
- A 150,000 tpa Timber Resource Recovery facility

This document details the methods that Peel Environmental will use to engage with the community and local stakeholders, prior to submitting a planning application to Barnsley Council.

2. Timescales

Peel Environmental intends to submit a Scoping Report to Barnsley Council in January 2014, before commencing pre-application consultation with the local community in February 2014. Peel Environmental intends to submit a planning application, following consultation later in the year.

3. Objectives

Peel Environmental is committed to meaningful pre-application consultation, the purpose of which will be to:

- Engage with the community and local stakeholders to inform them about the Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park
- Seek feedback on the proposals, which, where possible, will be incorporated into the final planning application
- Address any questions, issues or concerns that may be raised by members of the community

Consultation on the proposal will serve to proactively engage members of the community and stakeholders as part of the programme. All feedback received will be collated, assessed and, wherever possible, will help shape

the submitted planning application. A Consultation Assessment Report will also be submitted as part of planning application to demonstrate the programme undertaken and the views gathered.

4. Stakeholders

Peel Environmental will seek to engage with a wide variety of stakeholders and stakeholder groups throughout the pre-application consultation process. These will include residents and businesses in the nearby villages of Little Houghton, Great Houghton and Darfield, elected representatives on Barnsley Council, local parish councils, the Member of Parliament for Barnsley East and other interested parties.

5. Consultation Methods

A variety of methods will be employed to engage with identified stakeholders and ensure the consultation is accessible and inclusive. The programme will communicate information about the proposed Renewable Energy Park and encourage participation.

This Statement of Engagement has been prepared with regard to Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council's Statement of Community Involvement, adopted in 2006. The proposed methods are in line with the suggested approach to applications of this nature.

5.1 Community Contact Points

Dedicated methods of communication, specifically for the Houghton Main proposal, will be set up and monitored throughout the pre-application consultation period and following submission of the application. These will include a Freephone Information Line, to be monitored during office hours and with a voicemail facility, a Freepost address and a dedicated email address.

The low-cost nature of these methods ensures that members of the community can participate in the consultation and that alternative provision for those without access to a computer or the internet is available.

The contact points are:

- Freephone - 0800 170 1418;
- Email - houghtonmain@peel.co.uk;
- Website - www.peel.co.uk/houghtonmain;
- Freepost - Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park, Freepost RSKS SBBE LHHZ, c/o PPS Group, Hanover House, 30-32 Charlotte Street, Manchester, M1 4FD.

All feedback received via the contact methods will be logged and responded to via the enquirer's chosen method of communication. This will be logged as part of the consultation and included in the Consultation Report.

These community contact points will also be publicised in consultation materials such as newsletters and letters to stakeholders.

5.2 Website

A dedicated section of Peel Environmental's website will be set up, providing information about the proposal and download links to related documents. This website will be available to view upon launch of the proposals and will also publicise the above contact points.

The webpage will be updated throughout the pre-application consultation period, and all publicly circulated materials will be available to view online and download.

Once the application has been submitted to Barnsley Council, all documents submitted as part of the planning application will be uploaded to the site for visitors to view.

5.3 Newsletter

In order to inform and engage residents living around the Houghton Main site, a community newsletter will be produced and circulated to all residential addresses and businesses in Little Houghton and Great Houghton, approximately 1500 addresses. The newsletter will also be sent to properties in Darfield, to the north of Saltersbrook Road.

Representatives of the Peel Environmental project team will hand deliver the newsletters to the closest residents to the site in Little Houghton. This will provide an opportunity for members of the community to ask initial questions of the project team and could encourage participation in consultation events. The remainder of the newsletters will be posted.

A second newsletter will be issued to the same stakeholders upon submission of the planning application. This will provide an update on the final scheme submitted to Barnsley Council, including any outcomes from the consultation, and explain the next steps of the planning process, such as how to engage with the formal consultation conducted by Barnsley Council.

5.4 Letters/Emails

Identified stakeholders will be notified of the proposal by letter and/or email upon launch of the proposals. Initially, the letter will introduce the scheme and provide details of the pre-application consultation programme. The launch letter will also act as an invitation to meet members of the project team to discuss the plans in greater detail.

Stakeholders will be kept updated throughout the consultation period by email and letter, as well as upon submission of the planning application.

5.5 Presentations

As detailed above, stakeholders will be offered a briefing or presentation on the scheme to enable the project team to discuss the development in further detail and provide immediate responses to questions. These meetings may take place as part of a group, for example with local parish councillors, or on a one-to-one basis, for example with the MP for the site.

Every request received to attend meetings of established groups will be considered and attended where appropriate.

5.6 Media

A proactive approach will be taken to securing media coverage, with press releases circulated to local and regional media outlets. Key local journalists will be offered interviews and one-to-one meetings, whilst all enquiries from media representatives will be monitored and provided with a response where appropriate.

5.7 Public Exhibition Days

Two half-day public exhibitions (on an evening or weekend) will be held at a suitable community venue close to the site. A venue will be chosen that is easily accessible and within reasonable proximity to the site and surrounding communities. Exhibition boards and artist's impressions will be displayed during the events including information about the proposed technology, assessments undertaken as part of the planning application and responses to commonly asked questions.

The two events will be fully staffed by various members of the project team, enabling attendees to speak to staff about the proposed development and ask questions. Preview sessions for elected representatives will be held prior to the events opening to the general public.

Peel Environmental will publicise the Public Exhibition Days via the community newsletter, website and press releases. An advert will also be placed in the Barnsley Chronicle to inform readers of the date, time and location of the events.

5.8 Feedback Forms

During the Public Exhibition Days attendees will be encouraged to complete feedback forms, with the option to return the form on the day or via the Freepost address at a later date. The questionnaire-style form will seek the viewpoints on various aspects of the proposed development and provide space for general comments.

All opinions submitted will be logged, reviewed and considered by Peel Environmental.

5.9 E-Bulletins

Peel Environmental will also use E-bulletins (update bulletins sent by email) to communicate and update stakeholders throughout the consultation period and post submission of the application.


5.10 Consultation Report

A Consultation Report will be submitted as part of the planning application, detailing the opinions expressed and responses provided by Peel Environmental throughout the consultation. This will provide an overview of views expressed and how feedback has been taken into account in the final planning application.

6. Summary

Peel Environmental is committed to carrying out meaningful engagement with the local community surrounding the Houghton Main site. It is considered that the methods outlined above will provide local residents and stakeholders with multiple opportunities to take part in the pre-application consultation and be fully informed about the proposed Renewable Energy Park.

Appendix 2 Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park Website

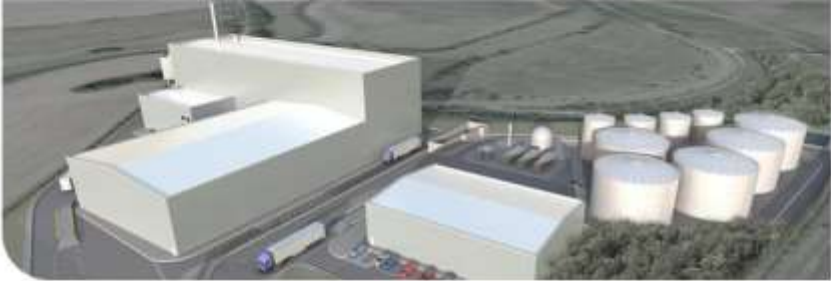


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Contact Us

FREEPHONE 0800 1701 418
(Monday to Friday, 9am to 5.30pm)
houghtonmain@peel.co.uk

Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park c/o PPS Group,
FREEPOST RSKS-SBBE-LHHZ,
30-32 Charlotte Street,
Manchester,
M1 4FD

- North Selby Anaerobic Digestion & Horticultural Glasshouse Project
- South Clyde Energy Centre
- North Clyde Recycling Centre
- Southmoor Energy Centre, Kellingley Colliery
- Bilthorpe Energy Centre, Bilthorpe Business Park, Nottinghamshire
- Houghton Main, South Yorkshire**

Houghton Main, South Yorkshire

Introduction

Peel Environmental is planning to develop a Renewable Energy Park at the former Houghton Main Colliery site near Barnsley. On this website you will find more information on the plans and details of how you can get in touch with the project team.

The project

For decades, Houghton Main Colliery helped power the region and keep the lights on, with thousands of tonnes of coal excavated from the ground. Our project would be the next chapter in the Houghton Main story, providing a sustainable source of energy for generations to come and making good use of materials that would otherwise be wasted.

We are looking to build an Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facility and a Timber Resource Recovery Centre to sit side by side on the site. Together, the two facilities will generate up to 23MW of low-carbon electricity, enough to power around 55,000 homes* – or 176 villages the size of Little Houghton.

The facilities will use organic materials to create both electricity and heat, helping reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and increase the mix of methods we use to create our energy. The Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park will use wood, or biomass, as well as left-over food products as a fuel for the facilities.

As well as generating much-needed energy, our plans will also have a positive effect on the local economy. Up to 200 jobs would be created during construction, with up to 30 staff

Appendix 3 List of Stakeholders

Stakeholders		
Organisation	Role	Stakeholder
Barnsley Council	Council Leader	Cllr Sir Stephen Houghton CBE
Barnsley Council	Deputy Leader of the Council	Cllr Jim Andrews
Barnsley Council	Cabinet Member for Development, Environment and Culture	Cllr Roy Miller
Barnsley Council	Cabinet Member for Public Health	Cllr Chris Lamb
Barnsley Council	Chief Executive	Ms Daine Terris
Barnsley Council	Ward member for site	Cllr Brian Key
Barnsley Council	Ward member for site	Cllr Pauline Markham
Barnsley Council	Ward member for site	Cllr Caroline Saunders
Barnsley Council	Neighbouring ward member	Cllr Dorothy Higginbottom
Barnsley Council	Neighbouring ward member	Cllr Jeff Ennis
Barnsley Council	Neighbouring ward member	Cllr Dave North
Barnsley Council	Neighbouring ward member	Cllr Charlie Wraith MBE
Barnsley Council	Neighbouring ward member	Cllr Joe Hayward
Barnsley Council	Planning Regulatory Board Chair	Cllr Doug Birkenshaw
Barnsley Council	Planning Regulatory Board	Cllr Gill Carr
Barnsley Council	Planning Regulatory Board	Cllr Alice Cave
Barnsley Council	Planning Regulatory Board	Cllr John Clarke
Barnsley Council	Planning Regulatory Board	Cllr Phil Davies
Barnsley Council	Planning Regulatory Board	Cllr Karen Davies
Barnsley Council	Planning Regulatory Board	Cllr Robin Franklin
Barnsley Council	Planning Regulatory Board	Cllr Paul Hand-Davies
Barnsley Council	Planning Regulatory Board	Cllr David Leech
Barnsley Council	Planning Regulatory Board	Cllr Penny Lofts
Barnsley Council	Planning Regulatory Board	Cllr Brian Mathers
Barnsley Council	Planning Regulatory Board	Cllr Kathryn Mitchell
Barnsley Council	Planning Regulatory Board	Cllr Margaret Morgan
Barnsley Council	Planning Regulatory Board	Cllr Caroline Makinson
Barnsley Council	Planning Regulatory Board	Cllr Brian Perrin
Barnsley Council	Planning Regulatory Board	Cllr Ken Richardson
Barnsley Council	Planning Regulatory Board	Cllr Ann Rusby
Barnsley Council	Planning Regulatory Board	Cllr Harry Spence
Barnsley Council	Planning Regulatory Board	Cllr Peter Starling
Barnsley Council	Planning Regulatory Board	Cllr Mick Stowe
Barnsley Council	Planning Regulatory Board	Cllr Richard Wraith
Barnsley East	MP	Mr Michael Dugher MP
Little Houghton Parish Council	Chair of Parish Council	Mr John Betton
Great Houghton Parish Council	Clerk	Mr Martin Fensome
Brierly Town Council	Acting Clerk	Ms Sarah Mozer
Sandhill Golf Club	Club Secretary	Mr Steve Gavin
Sandhill Primary School	Headteacher	Mrs J.B. Hurst
Darfield Upperwood Primary School	Principal	Mr A. Budd
Darfield All Saints C of E Primary School	Headteacher	Ms Courtenay Walls
Netherwood Advanced Learning Centre	Principal	Mr Toby Eastaugh
Grimethorpe Ladywood Primary School	Headteacher	Miss C. L. Grainger

Milefield Primary School	Headteacher	Mrs P Murray
Darfield Cricket Club	Chairman	Mr John Adamson
Darfield Juniors FC	Manager	Mr John Dale
Darfield Community Centre	Secretary	Ms Carol Robson
Mitchell and Darfield Social Club		
Barnsley College	Principal	Mr Colin Booth
Sheffield City Region	Chief Executive	Mr Ben Still
Leeds City Region	Chairman	Mr Roger Marsh
Barnsley Development Agency	Development Manager	Mr Andrew Ainsworth
The Barnsley Business and Innovation Centre	Operations Manager	Ms Lyndsey Maw
Coalfields Regeneration Trust	Chief Executive Officer	Mr Gary Ellis
Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce	Chief Executive	Mr Andrew Denniff
Think Low Carbon	Officer	Ms Lindsay Clifton

Houghton Main Energy Park

A community newsletter from Peel Environmental Ltd



Artist's impression of the Energy Park

Renewable Energy News

Peel Environmental is planning to develop a Renewable Energy Park at the former Houghton Main Colliery site. This community newsletter provides information on our plans and how you can get in touch.

The project

For decades, Houghton Main Colliery helped power the region and keep the lights on, with thousands of tonnes of coal mined from below ground. This is the next chapter in the Houghton Main story, where the site could once again be used to provide a source of energy for generations to come by making good use of materials that would otherwise be wasted.

We are looking to build an Anaerobic Digestion facility and a Timber Resource Recovery Centre to sit side by side on the site. Together, the two facilities will generate up to 23MW of low-carbon electricity, enough to power around 55,000 homes – or 176 villages the size of Little Houghton.

The facilities will use biomass materials to create both electricity and heat, helping reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and increase the mix of methods we use to create our energy. The Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park will use wood left after recycling in the Timber Resource Recovery Centre and left-over food products as a fuel in the Anaerobic Digestion plant.

As well as generating energy, our plans will also have a positive effect on the local economy. Up to 200 jobs will be created during construction, with up to 30 staff required to operate the Energy Park. Businesses in Barnsley could also benefit from supply chain opportunities on offer as part of the project, which in total would represent an investment of over £80 million.

Putting you in the picture

Once we have finalised our plans we will be submitting a planning application to Barnsley Council to consider. But before we do, we want to ensure you know what our plans involve and give you a chance to ask any questions about the project.

As well as being able to contact us directly, using details on the back page of this newsletter, we'd like to invite you to come along to our Information Days. These will take place at the Sandhill Golf Club, Middlecliff Lane, Little Houghton, Barnsley, S72 0HW on:

• **Wednesday 12th March 2014, 2pm – 8pm**

• **Thursday 13th March 2014, 2pm – 8pm**

Come along and speak to members of our project team, who will be on hand to talk you through the proposal and explain the project in greater detail.

Freephone: 0800 170 1418 (During office hours Mon-Fri)

Email: houghtonmain@peel.co.uk

Web: www.peel.co.uk/houghtonmain

Page 1

Where is the site?

The land we want to develop is the former Houghton Main Colliery site, to the west of the A6195 Park Spring Road. Triangular in shape, the site can be accessed from the Houghton Main roundabout, on the opposite side of the road to the A505 Fulfilment Centre.

The site, which is around 3.7 hectares in size, has sat empty since open cast mining finished there in 2001. Planning permission to build up to 19 industrial units on the site was granted in 2008. However, to date, no businesses have chosen to locate to the site.

There are a number of reasons why this site would be a good location for energy generation. As well as being identified as having the potential for employment use, the site has excellent existing transport links, directly onto the A6195. The land has also previously been developed, meaning we are not proposing to use greenfield land.

Crucially, the Energy Park could also encourage further interest in the surrounding sites. The development offers the potential to export heat and electricity to current or future nearby businesses, which could help attract new employers to Barnsley. Our plans are deliverable and we are keen to see that such private investment becomes a reality.

At a glance

If built, the Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park could:

- Provide up to 30 jobs during operation, up to 200 jobs during construction and supply chain opportunities for the area
- Generate enough renewable energy to power up to 55,000* homes
- Act as catalyst to attract other businesses to the area surrounding the Energy Park, helping to boost the local economy
- Make good use of a previously developed area of land, which is scarce in the borough

*Open. Typical domestic energy consumption figures for 2011 of 2,200 kWh per household



Meet our team

At Peel Environmental, we manage and develop projects in the energy and environmental sectors, working with technology providers to address the energy challenges we face. We identify sites that would be suitable for development, and then carefully consider what the best use of the land would be.

In order to ensure our projects become a reality, we often team up with development partners who bring their own expertise and knowledge to the project team. At Houghton Main we are working alongside Harworth Estates (who own the former colliery site and have restored the site to enable development), and two other companies that will help design, build and eventually operate the two facilities making up the Energy Park.

Tamar Energy will operate the Anaerobic Digestion facility once it is up and running. The company is one of the UK's leading renewable energy businesses and plans to have a network of up to 40 plants in operation by 2018. The company is backed by investors including the Duchy of Cornwall and Sainsbury's.

Northern Bio Power Limited is a new company owned by Carbonarius, a specialist developer of advanced biomass energy projects. Carbonarius, a joint venture between O-Gen UK Limited and the UNA Group, has developed two advanced Timber Resource Recovery Centres (TRRCs) in Birmingham and Plymouth, while O-Gen UK alone has developed two TRRCs in Stoke and Derby. Carbonarius recently won the National Recycling Awards 2013 for the Best Energy from Waste initiative.

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Web: www.peel.co.uk/houghtonmain

Page 2



Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park

The Anaerobic Digestion facility

Every year, thousands of tonnes of food are sent to landfill in the UK. But what if we could use this leftover organic material to help power our homes? Anaerobic Digestion enables us to do just this.

The method is not new, it has been around for 100 years, but over the decades it has been progressively developed and improved. Anaerobic Digestion, or AD, is now widely used across Europe, particularly in Germany where 7000 plants turn organic materials into electricity.

AD facilities work by placing organic materials into sealed tanks, where micro-organisms break down the material and create a biogas. This biogas is then used to create electricity and heat. The process also creates a digestate, a stable and nutrient-rich substance that can be used as a fertiliser or soil conditioner.

Tamar Energy will be looking to use materials from a variety of different sources within the food industry, such as farms, restaurants, or schools.

The Timber Resource Recovery Centre

Whilst people may think that we make the most of all wood products, this too is often wasted. Increasingly waste wood, or biomass as it is commonly referred to, is being seen as a sustainable way to help meet our energy demands.

We are proposing to develop a Timber Resource Recovery Centre which will use previously used wood to create low carbon energy. At the Energy Park, the Timber Resource Recovery Centre will treat and process wood derived products such as timber and paper, left after recycling. The materials will be placed into a chamber and heated to high temperatures in a low oxygen environment to produce what is known as a syngas. This syngas can then be used to create steam, which can power an electricity-producing turbine.

This method is used successfully around the world, as energy generators look for a renewable future. To ensure the facility is sustainable, the biomass will be sourced from as close to the site as possible.



Houghton Main Energy Park

A community newsletter from Peel Environmental Ltd



What happens next

For the Energy Park to become a reality, planning permission will be sought from Barnsley Council. We are at an early stage of our project and are currently preparing an application to submit to the Council.

We are looking for feedback on our proposals from the local community at the Information Days.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

As part of the application process, we are carrying out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which will assess the environmental aspects of the proposal in detail. For example, the EIA will examine how the Energy Park will look from several viewpoints and how vehicles will travel to and from the site.

When we have completed our assessments they will be submitted as part of the planning application and made available for the public to view.

Information Days location



Find out more

We are keen to speak to local residents about our plans and let you know exactly what the Energy Park will involve. Come along to our Information Days at Sandhill Golf Club, Middlecliff Lane, Little Houghton, Barnsley, S72 0HW on:

- **Wednesday 12th March 2014, 2pm – 8pm**
- **Thursday 13th March 2014, 2pm – 8pm**

Get in touch

There are a number of ways in which you can contact us. Whether it is to ask a specific question or simply find out more about the plans, we are happy to talk to you about the Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park. You can contact us by:

Freephone: 0800 170 1418 (During office hours Mon-Fri)

Email: houghtonmain@peel.co.uk

Web: www.peel.co.uk/houghtonmain

Write to us: Freepost: RSKS-SBBE-LHHZ, Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park, c/o PPS Group, 30-32 Charlotte Street, Manchester, M1 4FD



A sustainable future for Houghton Main colliery

Welcome to the Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park Information Day, where you can find out about our plans to develop the former colliery site and ask any questions you may have about the project.

Please feel free to take a look around and speak to members of the project team, who will be happy to talk you through our plans to deliver a new renewable energy source for Barnsley. You can also fill in a questionnaire to let us know your thoughts.

Meet our team

Today provides a chance for you to meet members of our project team, who will be working together to prepare a planning application for the site and will be involved in the Energy Park as it progresses.

Peel Environmental is leading the scheme. We manage and develop projects in the energy and environmental sectors, helping to address the energy challenges we face by delivering projects that will help meet our increasing demand for electricity. We regularly collaborate with technology providers and development partners to deliver our projects.

At Houghton Main, we are pleased to be working with Tamar Energy, one of the UK's leading renewable energy businesses, who will operate part of the Energy Park. The company is aiming to have a network of 40 facilities across the country by 2018. We are also working alongside Northern Bio Power, owned by Carbonarius, a venture that has already delivered a number of advanced energy projects across the country and won a National Recycling Award for its work in the energy sector.

Together, we want to deliver the next chapter for energy generation at Houghton Main and bring investment into Barnsley.

Freephone: 0800 170 1418 [During office hours Mon-Fri]

Email: houghtonmain@peel.co.uk

Web: www.peel.co.uk/houghtonmain



Where is the site?

The site is part of the former Houghton Main Colliery, where coal was mined for decades to power the region and keep the lights on. Triangular in shape, the land can be accessed directly from the Houghton Main Colliery roundabout on the A6195 Park Spring Road.

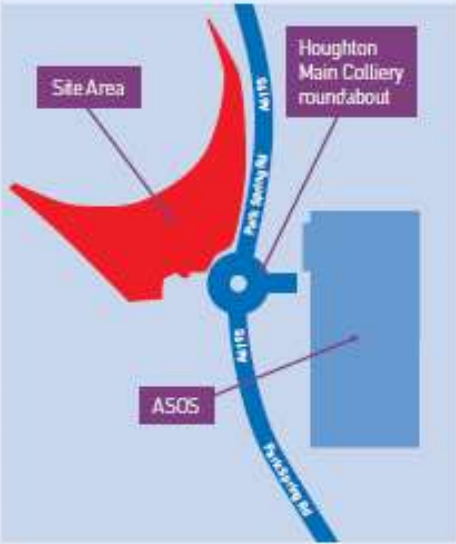
Following the closure of the colliery, the area was subsequently open cast mined, before being restored for redevelopment by Harworth Estates, who own the land. Permission was given by Barnsley Council to build 19 industrial units on the site in 2008, which was extended in 2011. However the development has failed to move forward due to a lack of interest from potential occupiers.

Our vision for Houghton Main

We are proposing to develop the Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park at the site, which will act as a hub for energy production with two separate facilities operating side-by-side. If built, the Energy Park will include an Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facility and Timber Resource Recovery Centre (TRRC) which, together, would generate up to 23MW of renewable electricity from sustainable materials. That's enough to power around 55,000 homes* - or 176 villages the size of Little Houghton.

The project would represent £80 million of private investment into the local economy and would create around 200 jobs during construction and 30 positions once the Energy Park is up and running. Building and operating the Energy Park would also provide supply chain opportunities, of which local traders could take advantage.

*Open 3 year domestic energy consumption figure 10,100 kWh per household





Building a sustainable future



Artist's impression of the proposed Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park.

The UK has traditionally relied on fossil fuels to power our homes and businesses, with coal-fired power stations producing a large percentage of our electricity.

With our existing energy infrastructure ageing and European legislation tightening the rules around carbon emissions, a number of power stations in the UK are set to close. While fossil fuels still have a role to play in our energy mix in the short term, we have to look for more sustainable solutions for the future.

Sustainable generation methods such as biomass energy are being seen as one of the solutions to the problem. In parts of the UK virgin biomass, or wood

that has been grown for energy generation, is being used to generate electricity. We are proposing to use biomass materials that many people would consider to be waste and which currently go to landfill. The Energy Park will take previously used wood and food waste and use it to create electricity. Not only will this help bridge the energy gap but it will also prevent valuable materials being discarded in landfill, which is becoming increasingly expensive due to Government taxes.

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The Anaerobic Digestion facility

The Anaerobic Digestion process is well established. It is used widely across Europe to make good use of organic materials that would otherwise be buried in landfill. Here in the UK, it is being used on both a small and large scale to generate energy in a more sustainable way.

Our proposed Anaerobic Digestion facility would be located on the eastern side of the site, closest to the A4195, and would accept up to 60,000 tonnes of organic feedstock each year to create 3MW of electricity.

Anaerobic Digestion, or AD, is a natural process where organic or biomass materials, such as food waste, are broken down by micro-organisms and converted into energy.

- Materials are placed inside sealed tanks, where micro-organisms digest them in a similar way to composting.
- This process releases a biogas (a mixture of carbon dioxide and methane) which is then used in a modern gas engine to create heat and electricity.
- This electricity could be supplied directly to nearby businesses or fed into the National Grid.
- The process also produces what is known as a digestate, a nutrient-rich substance that can be used as a biofertiliser by farmers. In fact, the AD process has a historic link with the agricultural industry and is common place on farms up and down the country.

An Anaerobic Digestion facility during construction



The feedstock used in the AD facility would come from the food industry, including production and food processing, through to restaurants, hotels and schools.

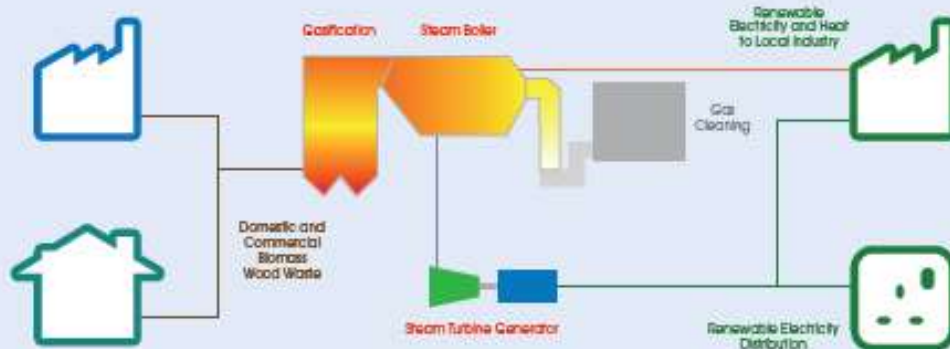
Tamar Energy, who will design and operate this part of the Energy Park, has several facilities currently in development and operation and aims to establish a network of sustainable energy hubs across the UK.



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The Timber Resource Recovery Centre



With the need for renewable energy sources a constant demand in today's society, energy generation companies are looking at how we can best use the materials at our disposal. Organic products such as wood contain stored up energy, so why would we send such materials to landfill?

Instead of it going to landfill, Northern Bio Power will use previously used wood from the surrounding area in the Timber Resource Recovery Centre at Houghton Main. The biomass used will include wood products recovered from domestic and industrial sources after the removal of other valuable recyclable materials. Other wood-derived fuels such as paper products may also be used in the process.

The Timber Resource Recovery Centre will be made up of two main components, the reception hall, where biomass will be brought in and stored, and the process hall, where electricity is generated. This feature of the Energy Park will generate up to 20MW of electricity from 150,000 tonnes of material each year and will produce a stable source of energy 24 hours a day.

How does it work?
 We propose to use gasification, a type of thermal treatment, to create energy from biomass materials. The left-over wood, or biomass, is placed into a chamber, where the amount of oxygen present is carefully controlled. The wood is then heated to high temperatures which breaks down the material without

burning it. This reaction creates what is known as a syngas.
 It is this syngas that is the key to creating electricity. The gas is captured and combusted to generate steam, which in turn powers an electricity-producing turbine. The generated energy can then be fed directly to nearby users and into the National Grid.



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A New Chapter in the Houghton Main story

Barnsley has a rich history of generating energy having employed thousands of local people in the coal mining industry.

Our proposal would be the next chapter in energy generation at the Houghton Main colliery site, creating jobs, boosting the local economy and playing a part in helping power the region.

As the land is previously-developed, it means we are not using Barnsley's green spaces. The direct access onto the A6195 is also a significant benefit of this site. The Energy Park could also be a hub for attracting new employers to the area by directly providing renewable heat and electricity. There are several sites in the surrounding areas earmarked for employment use and our proposal could feed a lower cost and stable supply of electricity directly to the door of existing or new employers, meaning more investment and more jobs for Barnsley.

The Potential

If built, the Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park could:

- Provide up to 30 jobs during operation and up to 200 jobs during construction
- Create supply chain opportunities for the area
- Generate enough renewable energy to power up to 55,000* homes
- Act as catalyst to attract other businesses to the area surrounding the Energy Park, helping to boost the local economy
- Make good use of a previously developed area of land, which is scarce in the borough
- Generate energy from materials that would otherwise be sent to landfill

*Based on typical domestic energy consumption figures of 1,000 kWh per household

Houghton Main Colliery, 1993



Houghton Main Colliery, 1997



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Our progress so far

We are at a relatively early stage of the development process for the Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park.

For this type of project, the potential impact on the surrounding environment must be considered as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The EIA is a comprehensive set of detailed studies that examines key aspects of the proposal, such as traffic and transport; landscape and visual impact; air quality; noise; and ecology among others.

So far, we have met with the planning department at Barnsley Council to discuss the type of assessments we will carry out as part of the EIA. Following agreement with the Council, we have begun work on these assessments. Once these are complete, the results will be submitted as part of the planning application, which will be publicly available to view.



Designing the Energy Park

Throughout the development process we have to take into account the functionality of the two facilities and how the Energy Park would look from various viewpoints. Owing to the equipment to be housed in the proposed buildings, the Anaerobic Digestion facility will be around 15 metres tall, whilst the tallest point of the Timber Resource Recovery Centre (the process hall) will be around 30m.

Our Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment will show how the Energy Park will appear from surrounding key views and we have already started working up artist's impressions of what the buildings could look like when in place.

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Web: www.peel.co.uk/houghtonmain



Protecting the environment

Traffic and Transport

How fuel is transported to the Energy Park will be one of our key considerations. We are currently carrying out a comprehensive traffic and transport assessment that will look at the types of vehicles that will travel to and from the site and the capacity of the surrounding roads.

One of the benefits of the site is its direct access onto the A6195 Park Spring Road, meaning that vehicles can avoid travelling through villages such as Little Houghton. Vehicles will enter the site via an existing exit on the Houghton Main Colliery Roundabout, which will be improved as part of the proposed development. All Energy Park traffic will use this entrance, however each facility will have its own on-site entrance, gate and weigh bridge.

We anticipate that around 65 HGVs would travel to and from the site each day, which is 130 individual movements. Around 25 light vehicles, such as staff cars, would access the site each day. To provide a comparison, if industrial units were to be developed at the site, for which planning permission exists, it could generate an estimated 768 vehicle movements every day.

Deliveries are expected between normal working hours, for example between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Friday, and on Saturday mornings.

Flood Risk

As with many types of development, the risk of flood must also be considered. Most of the site sits within Flood Zone 1, which is classified as the lowest risk of flooding. A small portion of the land, in the north west corner of the site, is within Flood Zone 2, which means there is a medium risk of flooding.

The layout of the proposed Energy Park has been designed to minimise any risk of flooding. We are in the process of carrying out a detailed Flood Risk Assessment which examines this in depth, however we have been sure to take such factors into account during our early work. The land within Flood Zone 2 is mostly free of development, with structures raised.

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Protecting the environment

Air Quality and Odour

There will be a number of ways we will prevent smells escaping from the AD facility. All the feedstock would be taken directly into a reception hall which is fitted with fast acting shutter doors and kept under negative pressure, to suck air into the building and prevent smells escaping. Any liquids taken to the site would be delivered in sealed storage tanks.

The air from within the reception hall is all passed through an odour control plant prior to its release, ensuring odour is kept within the plant at all times. The Anaerobic Digestion takes place in entirely sealed containers which also prevents any smells escaping. There would be no outdoor processing, storage, or handling of materials at any time.

Noise

We have visited key locations in the surrounding area to monitor existing noise levels and this information will be used to model the noise associated with operation of the Energy Park and the equipment enclosed within its buildings. Our noise assessment will also take into account any sounds made by Energy Park vehicles and any control measures that we need to put in place.



An example of an Anaerobic Digestion facility

Freephone: 0800 170 1418 (During office hours Mon-Fri)
Email: houghtonmain@peel.co.uk
Web: www.peel.co.uk/houghtonmain



Our next steps

We are currently carrying out assessments which will be submitted as part of the planning application to Barnsley Council. Once we have consulted with the local community and prepared a detailed application, we will submit this to the local authority to consider.

The below timeline outlines how we anticipate the project will progress in the coming months:

March 2014 - Community consultation and preparation of the planning application



Spring 2014 - Undertaking Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and submission of the planning application



Autumn 2014 - Determination of the application by Barnsley Council

At Peel Environmental, we are committed to meaningful engagement with the local community and we will keep you informed as we progress with our plans for the Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park.

We'd be grateful if you would take the time to complete a feedback form, available at today's Information Day, and return it in the box provided or via our Freepost address. We will collate and review all feedback received and, where possible, take this into account throughout the development process.

Got a question?

Don't worry if you think of a question about the project at a later date, you can get in touch with a member of the project team who will be happy to help you. You can:

- **Call us:** Freephone 0800 170 1418 (During office hours Mon-Fri)
- **Email us:** houghtonmain@peel.co.uk
- **Write to us:** Freepost: RSK5-SBBE-LHHZ, Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park, c/o PPS Group, 30-32 Charlotte Street, Manchester, M1 4FD
- **Visit us at:** www.peel.co.uk/houghtonmain

Freephone: 0800 170 1418 (During office hours Mon-Fri)

Email: houghtonmain@peel.co.uk

Web: www.peel.co.uk/houghtonmain

Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park

Feedback Form



Thank you for visiting the Information Day and taking an interest in our plans for the Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park. Please complete this feedback form to let us know what you think about the project.

Did you find today's Information Day useful? (please tick)

- Very Useful Useful Not Sure Not Useful Not Useful At All

Which aspects of the project are you most interested in? (please tick)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Design of the Energy Park | <input type="radio"/> Job creation |
| <input type="radio"/> Traffic and transport | <input type="radio"/> Supply chain opportunities |
| <input type="radio"/> Generating renewable energy | <input type="radio"/> Diverting materials from landfill |
| <input type="radio"/> Air quality and odour | <input type="radio"/> Noise from the Energy Park |
| <input type="radio"/> How the facilities will look | <input type="radio"/> Other |

If other, please state below:

.....

Please provide any further comments on our proposal.

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Your comments will be analyzed by PPS (Local and Regional) Ltd on behalf of Peel Environmental. Copies may be made available, in due course, to the local planning authority so it can note your comments. We will, however, request that your personal details are not placed on the public record. Your personal details will be held securely by PPS and Peel Environmental in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2000, will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent planning applications and, except as noted above, will not be passed to any third parties.

Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park

Want to be kept updated on our plans? Please provide your contact details below.

Name:

.....

Address:

.....

Postcode:

.....

Telephone:

.....

Email:

.....

I would like to be kept in touch via (please circle): Phone / Email / Post

Need further information?

You can contact a member of our project team via the methods below, including Freephone and email.

Completed feedback forms can be returned in the provided box at the Houghton Main Information Days or via our Freepost address: FREEPOST RSKS-SBBE-LHHZ, Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park, c/o PPS Group, Hanover House, 30-32 Charlotte Street, Manchester, M1 4FD.

Returning your form

We will review all questions and comments as part of our consultation on the application. Comments will be considered as part our Consultation Report, which will be submitted as part of the planning application to Barnsley Council. We kindly ask that forms are returned before *Monday 24th March 2014*.

Freephone: 0800 170 1418 [During office hours Mon-Fri]

Email: houghtonmain@peel.co.uk

Web: www.peel.co.uk/houghtonmain

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Plans launched for £80 million Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park

Plans for a £80 million Renewable Energy Park at the former Houghton Main Colliery site in Barnsley have been unveiled by Peel Environmental.

The proposed Energy Park would include an Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facility and a Timber Resource Recovery Centre (TRRC), and generate renewable heat and power from biomass materials such as waste wood and left-over food products.

The project could create up to 200 jobs during construction and 30 during operation and generate up to 23MW of renewable electricity – enough to power around 55,000 homes.

Jane Gaston, Development Manager at Peel Environmental, said:

"We believe that this is a fitting use of the former colliery site, which helped power the UK and keep the lights on for decades. The Energy Park would be the next chapter in energy generation at Houghton Main, using renewable materials to provide a more sustainable solution to meet our growing need for energy."

"Our plans would also deliver substantial investment in Barnsley, create around 230 new jobs and offer opportunities for local suppliers and traders to benefit."

"The site is ideal for renewable energy generation. Not only has it previously been developed, meaning we are not using Barnsley's green spaces, it is also surrounded by land earmarked for employment use. By offering a source of renewable heat and energy to local users, the Energy Park could act as a catalyst to attract other businesses and employers to the area."

Peel Environmental is working alongside development partners Tamar Energy, who will build and operate the AD facility, and Northern Bio Power, who will deliver the Timber Resource Recovery Centre.

Members of the project team will be on hand to answer any questions about the Renewable Energy Park at two public Information Days, to be held at Sandhill Golf Club, Middlecliff Lane, Little Houghton, Barnsley, S72 0HW on:

Wednesday 12th March 2014, 2pm – 8pm

Thursday 13th March 2014, 2pm – 8pm

Jane Gaston added:

"We have been visiting homes in Little Houghton this week and are keen to speak to local residents so we can explain exactly what our plans entail."



Anyone who is interested in the scheme, or would like to speak to a member of the project team, can call Peel Environmental's Freephone Information Line on 0800 170 1418 (during office hours Mon-Fri).

<ENDS>

Notes to Editors

Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park

Peel Environmental is bringing forward plans for the Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park at the former Houghton Main Colliery site. The site is accessed from the Houghton Main Colliery roundabout of the A6195 Park Spring Road, near Little Houghton.

If built, the Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park could:

- Provide up to 30 jobs during operation, up to 200 jobs during construction and supply chain opportunities for the area
- Use renewable materials such as waste wood and left-over food products to generate electricity
- Generate enough renewable energy to power up to 55,000 homes, the equivalent of 176 villages the size of Little Houghton
- Act as catalyst to attract other businesses to the area surrounding the Energy Park, helping to boost the local economy
- Make good use of a previously developed area of land, which is scarce in the borough
- Represent an inward investment of £80 million in the local economy

Peel Environmental is the part of the Peel Group which owns and develops waste infrastructure projects. It has recently consented a number of schemes including a 21MW energy from waste plant and 250,000tpa AD and MRF in Glasgow. Peel works with investors, waste management companies, technology providers and contractors to secure a deliverable business model for each project.

Tamar Energy is a renewable energy business, with the aim to be the UK's leading developer and operator of Anaerobic Digestion facilities. By 2018, Tamar plans to have a network of more than 40 plants, creating 100MW of renewable energy. Investors include the Duchy of Cornwall, Sainsbury's and Rothschild.

Northern Bio Power is owned by Carbonarius, a specialist developer of advanced biomass energy projects. It is a joint venture between O-Gen UK Limited and the UNA Group. Carbonarius has developed two advanced timber resource recovery plants in the UK in Birmingham and Plymouth; in addition O-Gen UK has developed two further facilities in Stoke and Derby. Carbonarius recently won the National Recycling Awards 2013 for the Best Energy from Waste Initiative.

For further information please contact Lewis Jones at PPS Group on 0161 237 3705/07867 394317 or lewis.jones@ppsgroup.co.uk



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Residents learn more about plans for £80 million Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park

Local residents took the opportunity to learn more about plans for a £80 million Renewable Energy Park, proposed for the former Houghton Main Colliery site by Peel Environmental.

Around 80 attendees visited Information Days at Sandhill Golf Club, Little Houghton, to speak to members of the project team, who were on hand to answer questions and explain how the Energy Park will turn organic materials into renewable heat and electricity.

Representatives from several local businesses attended the events, showing an interest in the supply chain opportunities, whilst some local residents asked about traffic movements. Others asked about odour and air quality, whilst some were keen to learn how renewable energy could be generated on-site.

If built, the Energy Park will include an Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facility and a Timber Resource Recovery Centre (TRRC), and will use materials such as waste wood and left-over food products to generate up to 23MW of renewable electricity – enough to power around 55,000 homes.

During the Information Days local residents were provided with information about the site, accessed via the A6195 Park Spring Road, how each facility will function and the opportunities the Energy Park could create.

Jane Gaston, Development Manager at Peel Environmental, said:

"It is important for us to speak to local residents, inform them about our project and listen to what they have to say. We were pleased with the turnout at the Information Days and it gave us a good idea of the aspects of the development that people are interested in.

"Our project would represent an £80 million investment in Barnsley and create around 230 new jobs during construction and operation. Some of those who came to the events were keen to see such opportunities delivered, whilst others showed a real enthusiasm for renewable energy methods.

"Development proposals can prompt questions or concerns, which is understandable, but we worked hard to address these during the events and will continue to do so as we progress with the application."

< More Follows >



Peel Environmental will review all comments received during the Information Days and, where possible, this will help shape the final scheme. A planning application is anticipated to be submitted to Barnsley Council in the coming months.

Anyone who is interested in the project, or would like to speak to a member of the project team, can call Peel Environmental's Freephone Information Line on 0800 170 1418 (during office hours Mon-Fri), or visit www.peel.co.uk/houghtonmain.

< Ends >

Notes to Editors

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For further information please contact Lewis Jones at PPS Group on 0161 237 3705/07867 394317 or lewis.jones@ppsgroup.co.uk

Schemes for £80m energy park

PLANS for an £80m renewable energy park between Darfield and Grimethorpe have been submitted to the council.

The proposed development on the former Houghton Main Colliery site near Little Houghton will turn waste timber and timber products as well as food waste into electricity — enough to power up to 55,000 homes.

1 Full story: page ten.

Revealed: £80m energy park plan for colliery site

By Mike Cotton

PLANS to turn a former colliery site into an £80 million renewable energy park have been revealed to the Chronicle this week.

Peel Environmental is planning to build an anaerobic digestion plant, which recovers energy from breaking down waste food, as well as a timber resource recovery centre, which breaks down waste wood.

The plants will be side-by-side on the former Houghton Main Colliery site off Park Spring Road near Little Houghton, between Darfield and Grimethorpe.

Both plants will generate up to 23MW of electricity – enough to power about 55,000 homes – as well as heat, which could potentially be sold to nearby businesses.

It will create 30 jobs once up-and-running, as well as up to 200 jobs during the construction period, which could last up to two years.

Jane Gaston, development manager at Peel Environmental, said it was fitting that the land, which once provided energy and employment, will do so again under the plans.

“The energy park would be the next chapter in energy generation at Houghton Main, using renewable materials to provide a more sustainable solution to meet our growing need for energy.”

“Our plans would also deliver substantial investment in Barnsley, create around 230 new jobs and offer opportunities for local suppliers and traders to benefit.”

She said the site had been chosen due to its good road links and central location, available workforce, and because it brought a former industrial site back into use, rather than impacting on green belt land.

She added: “We know the council and other agencies are working to bring fresh employment into the area.”

“The energy park will create jobs, but we hope it could also act as a catalyst to attract other employers to the area as well.”

Peel is working with the land owner, Harworth Estates, the company which manages former coal board sites, as well as Tamar Energy on the anaerobic generation side, and Northern Bio Power on the timber project.

The firm has been meeting local residents this week, and is holding two public information days at Sandhill Golf Club on March 12 and 13 from 2pm to 8pm.

“We’d like to talk to local people and answer any questions they may have before the planning application is submitted, probably towards the end of spring.”

Peel Environmental is part of the Peel Holdings Group, a multi-billion property firm behind the Trafford Centre in Manchester, Liverpool and Robin Hood airports, and Media City, the new home of the BBC in Manchester.

It also owns the Peel Centre retail park at Harborough Hill Road, which includes Halfords, Currys and DW Sport and Fitness.



Energetic: An artist's impression of the proposed Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park.

Plans launched for £80 million Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park



Plans for a £80 million Renewable Energy Park at the former Houghton Main Colliery site in Barnsley have been unveiled by Peel Environmental.

The proposed Energy Park would include an Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facility and a Timber Resource Recovery Centre (TRRC), and generate renewable heat and power from biomass materials such as waste wood and left-over food products.

The project could create up to 200 jobs during construction and 30 during operation and generate up to 23MW of renewable electricity – enough to power around 55,000 homes.

Jane Gaston, Development Manager at Peel Environmental, said:

“We believe that this a fitting use of the former colliery site, which helped power the UK and keep the lights on for decades. The Energy Park would be the next chapter in energy generation at Houghton Main, using renewable materials to provide a more sustainable solution to meet our growing need for energy.

“Our plans would also deliver substantial investment in Barnsley, create around 230 new jobs and offer opportunities for local suppliers and traders to benefit.

“The site is ideal for renewable energy generation. Not only has it previously been developed, meaning we are not using Barnsley’s green spaces, it is also surrounded by land earmarked for employment use. By offering a source of renewable heat and energy to local users, the Energy Park could act as a catalyst to

attract other businesses and employers to the area.”

Peel Environmental is working alongside development partners Tamar Energy, who will build and operate the AD facility, and Northern Bio Power, who will deliver the Timber Resource Recovery Centre.

“Our plans would also deliver substantial investment in Barnsley, create around 230 new jobs and offer opportunities for local suppliers and traders to benefit.

Members of the project team will be on hand to answer any questions about the Renewable Energy Park at two public Information Days, to be held at Sandhill Golf Club, Middlecliff Lane, Little Houghton, Barnsley, S72 0HW on: Wednesday 12th March 2014, 2pm – 8pm, Thursday 13th March 2014, 2pm – 8pm

Jane Gaston added: “We have been visiting homes in Little Houghton this week and are keen to speak to local residents so we can explain exactly what our plans entail.”

Anyone who is interested in the scheme, or would like to speak to a member of the project team, can call Peel Environmental’s Freephone Information Line on 0800 170 1418 (during office hours Mon-Fri).

We Are Barnsley Houghton Main Plans Revealed



PLANS to turn a former colliery site into an £80 million renewable energy park have been revealed.

Peel Environmental is planning to build a plant which recovers energy from breaking down waste food, as well as a timber resource recovery centre which breaks down waste wood.

The plants will be side by side on the former Houghton Main Colliery site off Park Spring Road near Little Houghton, between Darfield and Grimethorpe.

Both plants will generate up to 23MW of electricity - enough to power about 55,000 homes - as well as heat, which could potentially be sold to nearby businesses.

It will create 30 jobs once up and running, as well as up to 200 jobs during the construction period, which could last up to two years.

Jane Gaston, development manager at Peel Environmental, said: "The energy park would be the next chapter in energy generation at Houghton Main.

"Our plans would also deliver substantial investment in Barnsley, create around 230 new jobs and offer opportunities for local suppliers and traders to benefit."

The firm has been meeting local residents and is holding two public information days at Sandhill Golf Club on March 12 and 13 from 2pm to 8pm.

Posted by Wing nut on Monday March 10 2014 at 19:31

[Reply](#)

I worked at Houghton main up to it closing, there are now just two pipes sticking up out of the capped shafts, it was a very gassie pit so if they tap into the pipes they will have free gas for years

Posted by ?? on Wednesday March 12 2014 at 22:55

[Reply](#)

Is that across from Asos site? Cause Asos is built on part of houghton main

Falling numbers force closure of disabled centre

By Lynsey Bradford

A CENTRE which provides day support for disabled people will close in May because of falling attendance.

The Carlton Centre, which is run by the Disabilities Trust on behalf of the council, is considered financially unviable as only 17 people use it.

Coun Jimmy Flatts, council spokesman for adult and communities, said the decision had been made with great reluctance and everything would be done to minimise the impact on those who do use the centre.

She added: "The council, along

with the Disabilities Trust has come to the joint decision to close the centre due in part to the current economic climate and, because there are fewer people using the services, it has therefore become financially unviable.

"We know the 17 people who use Carlton Centre value its services. We will be working hard with the Disabilities Trust to minimise the impact the closure will have on these individuals and their families, and ensure they have a choice in how they access the right kind of support they need in their community."

Services at the centre include recreational and educational

activities.

Support for people with physical disabilities will continue to be provided by the council, which will assess their needs and ensure they have a choice in how their support and care is arranged and provided, so they can choose what services they would like to pay for through their care allowance.

Jerry Ratcliff, director of the trust's disability lifestyles division, which runs the centre, said staff were being supported.

The six members of staff will be redeployed to make redundant.

Removed bus stop confines wheelchair son to home

By Lynsey Bradford

A SEVERELY disabled man can no longer enjoy regular outings after a bus stop near his specially-adapted bungalow was removed, says his mother.

Cait Glover's son Andrew Loukes, 27, of Silver Street, suffers from cerebral palsy and epilepsy and is wheelchair-bound. He is regularly taken out by his mother Cait, 51, who claims there has been a bus stop on the junction of Silver Street with Stainborough Road, Doshworth, since before 1950.

She lived in the area before she moved to Leeds and said Andrew had used the stop since moving to Silver Street three years ago.

But the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive said there had not been a northbound stop for a number of years and the northbound stop was removed in August.

Cait said Andrew has round-the-clock care, and can't be wheeled to nearby bus stops because they are up steep hills and have narrow pavements making it too difficult.

"Andrew can't go out by himself. He goes out with me and he goes out with carers to the hairdresser and the doctor and to do other every day things."

"He can do very little but he really enjoys going out and he's upset."

"This is adversely affecting his health. He has behavioural problems and will scream and shout if he is confined."

Cait said regular bus drivers would stop to let people on and off, but some did not, leaving Cait and Andrew having to pay up to £20 for a taxi.

The SYPTX considered installing a bus stop on the opposite side of the road, but said it was unable to do so on safety grounds because of railings, pavement curbs, bends in the road and double yellow lines.

A statement issued by the SYPTX and Barnsley Council said it had received the request following the re-routing of buses on



No more outings: Disabled Andrew Loukes and his mum Cait Glover. Picture: Scott Salstow P048759

Stainborough Road.

It said problems such as height differences between the road and pavement and a sharp bend in the road creating an 'unsafe gap' between the bus and the kerb pre-

vented a new stop.

It added: "For these reasons SYPTX on the behalf of Barnsley Council regrets that it is not possible to provide a bus stop at this location."



Ray Laidlaw and Billy Mitchell

Tyne duo will re-tell story of Lindisfarne

By Gail Robinson

FOR more than 50 years Lindisfarne was Tyne's best-loved band.

Now the Lindisfarne story, a celebration of the group's music and achievements, is at the Larngreen Inn.

The show is devised, written and performed by drummer/founder member Ray Laidlaw and Billy Mitchell, front man for the final eight years of the group.

Ray and Billy perform acoustic versions of Lindisfarne's classic songs and tell the inside story of the group's rise to fame, from Whitley Bay to San Francisco Bay, from Bothbury to Glantonbury.

They describe the group's early days on Tyne in the 1960s busting for gigs and

their rise to fame in the early 70s.

The show is illustrated with personal archive photographs and describes their worldwide tours, festival successes and TV appearances.

Lady Eleanor, Meet Me on the Corner, Fog on the Tyne, Run for Home, all of their songs have a story behind them. Tonight fans can discover what was the inspiration behind their composition.

In 2014 the appeal of Lindisfarne is as strong as ever. EMI recently released a 40th anniversary limited edition vinyl version of the certified platinum 'Fog on the Tyne' album.

Tickets at www.barnsleyjam3000.com or on 299775.

SA mine killing film to be screened

THE first Yorkshire screening of a major new documentary called 'Miners Shot Down' will take place in Barnsley.

It deals with the events of August 28 2011, when South African police opened fire on a group of striking Lonmin miners at the Marikana Mine, killing 34 and injuring 78.

The film will be shown at 8.30pm on Thursday in the lecture theatre at Barnsley Central Library.

Dave Gibson, organiser of the Barnsley screening, said: "We are delighted to be showing this harrowing film at the start of the 30th anniversary of the 1984-85 miners' strike."

"Both that strike and the strike at Marikana two years ago, show how the state is prepared to use extreme measures to try and break resistance."

"There will be no admission charge to watch the documentary but a collection will be held on the night."

Drop-in session for writers

BARNSELY Writers' Resource Centre will be open at the central library tomorrow from 11am until 1pm.

This is not a writing workshop, but a drop-in session for anyone who wants information, local or national, on writing groups, courses, events publications, or anything to do with writing.

Find out more about the proposed



HOUGHTON MAIN RENEWABLE ENERGY PARK

Peel Environmental is bringing forward plans for a Renewable Energy Park to be located at the former Houghton Main Colliery site, Park Spring Road, Barnsley.

Come along to our Information Days to find out more and speak to members of the project team on:

Wednesday 12th March 2014, 2pm to 8pm
Thursday 13th March 2014, 2pm to 8pm

Sandhill Golf Club, Middlecliff Lane, Little Houghton, Barnsley, S72 0HW

For more information contact:

Freephone 0800 170 1418
houghtonmain@peel.co.uk

Barnsley Chronicle

Residents hear more about energy park plan

28th March 2014



MORE than 80 people attended 'information days' to learn more about the Houghton Main Energy Park.

The park, proposed on the old Houghton Main Colliery site, would generate enough energy to power up to 55,000 homes.

On the site there would be an anaerobic digestion facility where organic waste that otherwise would go to landfill could be broken down in sealed tanks to produce heat and electricity.

The other development on the site would be a timber recovery centre, to process wood and paper left after recycling.

Jane Gaston, development manager at Peel Environmental, said: "It is important for us to speak to local residents, inform them about our project and listen to what they have to say.

"We were pleased with the turnout at the information days and it gave us a good idea of the aspects of the development that people are interested in.

"Our project would represent an £80 million investment in Barnsley and create around 230 new jobs during construction and operation.

"Some of those who came to the events were keen to see such opportunities delivered, whilst others showed a real enthusiasm for renewable energy methods.

"Development proposals can prompt questions or concerns, which is understandable, but we worked hard to address these during the events and will continue to do so as we progress with the application."



MORE than 80 people attended information days to learn more about the £80 million Houghton Main Energy Park.

The park, proposed on the old Houghton Main Colliery site, would generate enough energy to power up to 55,000 homes.

Jane Gaston, development manager at Peel Environmental, said: "It's important for us to speak to local residents, inform them about our project and listen to what they have to say.

"We were pleased with the turnout at the

information days and it gave us a good idea of the aspects of the development that people are interested in.

"Our project would represent an £80m investment in Barnsley and create around 230 new jobs during construction and operation."

Michael meets with developers of proposed renewable energy plant

11 April 2014

Michael met with the Peel Environmental Ltd today, the developers of a proposed Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park.

The developers have set out plans to invest £80 million in the construction of an anaerobic digester plant at the former Houghton Main Colliery Site. The plant would provide 200 jobs for the area during its construction and would provide 30 further permanent jobs during its operation.

Anaerobic digester plants are a form of renewable energy that uses micro-organisms to break down food waste that can then be converted into energy. The proposed plant would generate enough renewable energy to power up to 55,000 homes, whilst making use of resources that would otherwise have been sent away to landfills.

Commenting, Michael said:

"I was pleased to be able to meet with the developers and discuss their plans to invest in the construction of an anaerobic digester plant at the former Houghton Main Colliery Site. Their proposal would create nearly 200 construction jobs and an estimated 30 full-time jobs to operate the plant.

"David Cameron's promise to be the "greenest Government ever" is in tatters. Under his watch investment in clean energy has collapsed. Investment in green energy is necessary to securing Britain's future. We need a diverse array of clean energy solutions, and anaerobic digester plants are one of those options.

"We need to invest in clean energy initiatives and decarbonise the power sector."

You can see Peel Environmental Ltd's plans [here](#).

Barnsley News and Sport

Barnsley MP welcomes Houghton Main development plans

17th April 2014



Michael Dugher, the MP for Barnsley East, has welcomed plans for the development of a proposed Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park.

After meeting with the developers, Peel Environmental Ltd, he said: "It is welcome that these plans will provide a boost to the local economy and generate enough electricity to power around 55,000 homes. The proposal will also create nearly 200 construction jobs and an estimated 30 full-time jobs to operate the plant.

"I am particularly pleased the developers are keeping the proud Houghton Main name alive. I have also asked that the company continue to work closely with the local people over their plans."

Peel Environmental Ltd has set out plans to invest £80 million in the construction of an anaerobic digester plant at the former Houghton Main Colliery site. The plant is set to provide 200 jobs for the area during its construction and would provide 30 further permanent jobs during its operation.

Anaerobic digester plants are a form of renewable energy that uses micro-organisms to break down food waste that can then be converted into energy.

The proposed plant would generate enough renewable energy to power up to 55,000 homes, whilst making use of resources that would otherwise have been sent away to landfills.

Appendix 8 Community Update Bulletin



Address
Address
Address
Address
Postcode

19th March 2014

Dear

Consultation on plans for the Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park

I wanted to personally thank you for taking the time to visit our recent Information Days and for showing an interest in our plans for the Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park, to be located at the former Houghton Main Colliery site, near Little Houghton.

The events were extremely useful and gave the project team a good understanding of the areas that are of most interest to the surrounding local communities. I hope that you found the day worthwhile.

Should you want to view the display boards again, you can download them from our project website: www.peel.co.uk/houghtonmain. Alternatively, please let us know if you would prefer to be sent a hard copy in the post.

We are currently in the progress of collating all of the feedback received during the events and, where possible, this will help shape our final decisions as we continue work on our detailed studies. These will form part of the planning application and will be fully available to view once we have submitted the application to Barnsley Council.

In the meantime, we will continue to update you on our progress to deliver a new renewable energy source for Barnsley. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you require any further information. You can:

Call us: Freephone 0800 170 1418 (During office hours Mon-Fri)
Visit us: www.peel.co.uk/houghtonmain
Email us: houghtonmain@peel.co.uk
Write to us: RSKS-SBBE-LHHZ, Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park, c/o PPS Group, 30-32 Charlotte Street, Manchester, M1 4FD

Yours sincerely

Jane Gaston
Development Manager