

# Sleaford Renewable Energy Plant

## Review of Exhibition held as part of Pre-Application Consultation

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### A SUMMARY

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This is the analysis of the questionnaires received during the public exhibition held at the Kirkby Le Thorpe CoE primary school, Kirkby Le Thorpe between 3pm and 8pm on 24 July 2007.

The exhibition was attended by approximately 55 people (36 actually signed in).

The exhibition was manned by Andrew Toft, David Williams, Darren Williams and Dafydd Williams. There was a constant flow of people until 5pm when it became very busy and unfortunately we were unable to discuss the project with all members of the public on a one-to-one basis.

18 questionnaires were completed and almost all were full responses. The results of each question are reproduced below. Where respondents did not answer a question this response is not recorded in the analysis, despite the fact that this could be interpreted as a "No opinion" response. Comments are reproduced in full.

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### B BACKGROUND

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#### Q.1 Which of the following best represents your view of global warming and climate change?

##### *Results*

Strong Concern	Slight concern	No opinion	Slight scepticism	Strong scepticism
7	6	0	3	1
41%	35%	0%	18%	6%

##### *Commentary*

Slightly disappointing that a number of people were sceptical, however, this could be due to objectors to the proposal that are reluctant to contradict themselves.

#### Q.2 Which of the following forms of renewable energy do you think should have a major role in Lincolnshire?

##### *Results*

On-shore wind	Off-shore wind	Solar	Biomass	Landfill gas
7	12	7	2	2
On-shore hydro	Wave energy	Tidal energy		
0	6	7		

### *Commentary*

The low score for biomass is concerning. Biomass should be a clear winner, given the resource available in Lincolnshire. The fact that it scores low could be due to: a lack of understanding of the term; reluctance to support the sector given opposition to this scheme; or genuine informed scepticism about its value.

It is possible that this highlights a deficiency in the exhibition in that it did not explain the term "biomass" nor its value to the Lincolnshire renewable energy mix. This will be corrected in future.

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## **C PROJECT SPECIFIC**

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### **Q.3 Do you agree that this scheme will have significant environmental benefits?**

#### *Results*

Strongly agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2	8	4	4	0
11%	44%	22%	22%	0%

#### *Commentary*

A good result with 55% convinced of the scheme's environmental credentials, as opposed to 22% who are sceptical. Future consultation must be aimed at bringing the 22% with no opinion into the supportive camp.

### **Q.4 Do you agree that this scheme will have significant local economic benefits?**

#### *Answers*

Strongly agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	7	3	5	2
6%	38%	17%	28%	11%

#### *Commentary*

This was an encouraging result given that KLT as a village will not experience any direct economic benefit through the procurement of straw. Some benefit to KLT could improve this result.

### **Q.5 What do you think are positive aspects of the Sleaford Renewable Energy Plant?**

#### *Answers*

- Employment and cheaper Energy
- Jobs
- Far less emissions than gas fired power plant
- Ideal general area
- More local employment
- None

- None: find a more out of the way location
- None for locals
- Little or none for most residents in the area
- None
- Its using renewable energy
- More jobs
- Jobs and nicely drawn buildings

**Q.6 What, if any, concerns do you have about the Sleaford Renewable Energy Plant?**

*Answers*

- Lorries coming through the Village
- Position/Traffic
- Church land. Road and Traffic
- Smell & Ash/Residue fallout
- Blight (housing), Dust, 'Smoke', Lorries
- Should be sited further away from Sleaford Town
- Why does it need to be so close to Sleaford
- Noise/traffic/smell/lighting
- Possible pollution
- Concern regarding highway problems, around KLT
- Traffic Danger, Live on island that could be surrounded by HGV
- Transport/Movements
- Too near to local town and village
- Increased transport
- Noise/traffic/smell/lighting
- Size, location, affect on daily standard of living, affect on house prices. Pollution from transport
- Traffic on bridge over A17, noise pollution, water vapour emissions
- None

*Commentary*

Despite its technical insignificance, the number of lorries approaching and leaving the plant is clearly a big concern for the people of KLT. It is difficult to deal technically with this emotive issue, particularly in the light of several comments received verbally about the problem of access to the school.

Concern around emissions should be resolved when the detailed air dispersion modelling has been completed. Perhaps the exhibition could have been stronger on this but without the calculations it was difficult to give anything but bland assurances.

Noise is another issue that is an understandable concern. However, it was hard to give comprehensive and convincing answers without the noise report which is currently in its final stages. The reality is that the village of KLT, despite the prevailing winds, will not suffer any noticeable increase in noise levels but the plant itself. There will be noise associated with vehicle movements and this ties into the general opposition on traffic grounds.

It is noticeable and pleasing that no concerns were raised in regards to the visual impact of the project.

**Q.7 Which of the following best describes your opinion of the Sleaford Renewable Energy Plant?**

*Answers*

Strongly in favour	In favour	No opinion	Against	Strongly against
1	5	4	5	3
5%	28%	22%	28%	17%

One respondent added that they are yet to make up their mind

*Commentary*

Clearly there is some work to be done to win the support of the people of Kirkby La Thorpe.

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## **D THE EXHIBITION**

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**Q.8 Do you feel more informed about the project having attended this exhibition?**

*Answers*

Yes	No
15	2
88%	12%

*Commentary*

The exhibition was well received.

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## **E OTHER COMMENTS**

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*Comments*

The following comments were written in the space provided on the reverse of the questionnaires.

- A good looking scheme in a good, out of the way location
- Increase Traffic concerns, find an alternative to using flyover
- Not convinced that this is the best available site. Feel there must be better sites that are further away from built up areas and still near power lines and good roads
- Strongly disagree with more traffic using the flyover across the A17. More noise and road pollution next to our property. I think that another exit from the A17 is needed further away from the village, pub entrance and school access.
- We live in a bungalow about 40 metres to the Sleaford side of the railway bridge. We are concerned about noise and pollution, particularly noise at night. We have lived at this address for 16 years and have witnessed several road accidents with vehicles colliding with railway bridge
- Be aware of low flying trainers, helicopters, service aircraft, Coninsby, cranwell, farmers?
- There is a concern that once established this plant will be forced to burn other than straw. That the fall out from the stack will contaminate surrounding dwellings,

these concerns have been expressed and I have received assurances to the contrary

*Address left for response?*

- 7 left some details
- 11 left no details

Compiled by Dafydd Williams, August 07