

## **Chapter 5 Consultations and PAD Programme**

## 5. Consultations and PAD Programme

- 5.1 A scoping process to inform the Environmental Statement was undertaken and subsequently, a scoping document was submitted to DoE Strategic Projects in May 2010. The scoping document was based on project information as it stood at that date. Submission of the scoping document prompted a Departmental letter summarising collective responses from a wide range of consultees, dated 23 November 2010 (Appendix 5.1).
- 5.2 The delay in bringing forward a planning application more speedily in the period after this exchange of correspondence is the result of a period of inactivity arising from the procurement process stalling between March 2011 and October 2011. Following this, work resumed on preparation of the ES and a re-activated PAD engagement with DoE Planning and its consultees took place in June 2012.
- 5.3 As part of this the intended approach and indicative programme was agreed with the Director of Strategic Planning as follows:
- Initial PAD meeting with Strategic Projects Team and key consultees on 27 June 2012 where a PAD Project Approach Document was circulated and the project programme and approach explained in greater detail;
  - An anticipated timeframe for submission of the draft ES and related draft planning application documentation to the Strategic Projects team for circulation to all consultees in the first week of September 2012;
  - Agreement that the draft ES would be the subject of an eight week consultation / feedback period with informed comments provided to the Strategic Projects team by 2 November 2012;
  - A target date for formal submission of the full planning application of 16 January 2013; and
  - Consistent with the Programme for Government objectives for determination of major infrastructure projects in planning – a six month determination period, with targeted determination of the application by 16 July 2013.

### Consultee Engagement and PAD Process

- 5.4 A series of one-to-one meetings and discussions were initiated with a number of key consultees in the period June 2012 - February 2013 including:
- DoE Strategic Projects team;
  - DoE Minerals Unit;
  - DoE Waste team;
  - DoE Landscape Architects Branch;

- NIEA Natural Heritage;
  - NIEA Land Resource Management;
  - NIEA Water Management Unit;
  - DRD Roads Service;
  - NIEA Protecting Historic Monuments;
  - NIEA Industrial Pollution and Radiochemical Inspectorate;
  - Belfast International Airport;
  - Belfast City Airport;
  - Public Health Agency; and
  - Antrim, Belfast and Newtownabbey Borough Council's Environmental Health officers.
- 5.5 Following the submission of the PAD approach document in June 2012 the work in progress Environmental Statement was the subject of legal review in July 2012 to assess the need for refinement of what had been prepared and to initiate any adjustments or further work necessary to reinforce its content prior to its entry into the PAD process.
- 5.6 The outcome of this review process was a focus on strengthening and expanding the ES and application documentation, with further work undertaken over the period July 2012-December 2012, in advance of a further legal review in December 2012 and submission of the draft ES documentation to DoE Strategic Projects team in February 2013.
- 5.7 The sequencing of the PAD programme as previously agreed with the Director of Strategic Planning was confirmed by the Strategic Projects Manager, Simon Kirk, at a meeting on 14 December 2012, with the starting point of this having moved from September 2012 to the end of February 2013.
- 5.8 A full package of PAD documentation was submitted to the DoE Strategic Projects team on 28 February 2013 which included:
- Draft Environmental Statement Volumes 1, 2 and 3;
  - Draft Environmental Statement Non-Technical Summary;
  - Draft Supporting Planning Statement;
  - Draft Design Statement;
  - Draft Application Drawing Package; and
  - Statement of intent and approach to public consultation.

- 5.9 DoE Strategic Projects Team initiated the consultation process amongst its consultees in the first half of March 2013 with feedback provided over the period to July 2013 – see Appendix 5.2 for DoE Letter summarising collective responses received on the PAD submission.
- 5.10 In reviewing the comments received from the PAD process a very proactive approach has been taken by the Becon team’s advisers with further one to one meetings with several consultees to address a number of outstanding issues, including:
- NIEA Industrial Pollution and Radiochemical Inspectorate (IPRI) – agreed to optimise the design by an increase to the chimney stack to 95m and introduction of a 20m stack on the MBT biofilter;
  - DRD Roads Service – meeting Divisional office, Roads Service Design Consultancy and Head Quarters to review detailed design of Boghill Road and agree revisions;
  - NIEA Natural Heritage, DCAL Inlands Fisheries, Rivers Agency and NIEA Water Management Unit – further refinement of Construction Management Plan and sharing of revised version for discussion and agreement;
  - Belfast International Airport – provision of further information relating to Bird Hazard Management Plan and explanation of changes to chimney stack height and relationship with existing higher electricity pylon;
  - Belfast City Airport – explaining changes to stack height and obtaining confirmation that previous non objection still holds;
  - DoE Landscape Branch – explanation of further revised landscape and visual assessment to assess revised chimney stack height and MBT biofilter stack;
  - EHOs of Respective Councils – meeting on-site to review noise related responses and examine topography and relationship to existing properties; and
  - Design Unit – meeting with Geoff Sloan of DoE Design unit with DoE Landscape Architects Branch to explain integration strategy of proposed buildings and approach taken to absorb development within the quarry site.
- 5.11 In responding to other consultees the focus has been on seeking confirmation that the information provided has addressed their requirements, through a series of emails and telephone contact.
- 5.12 In addition to the process of engagement through the formal PAD process there was a parallel focus on comprehensive public consultation. This is explained in detail within the separate Statement of Community Involvement that forms part of the application documentation.
- 5.13 In summary, it involved ten separate drop-in sessions which were attended by the Becon professional team and arc21 officers. Initially, the first six of these were focused on providing the opportunity for members of the public within the three District Council areas that the site straddles to get a full understanding of what the development is all about and provide feedback.

- 5.14 This comprised sessions in Antrim (within which the quarry site lies), Newtownabbey (within which the Boghill Road approach road lies) and Belfast (wider neighbouring lands) to view the proposals for the site, understand the process involved in bringing forward the planning application and the environmental assessment work undertaken to date.



**Fig 5.1 Photograph taken at Mossley Mill Drop-In Event**

- 5.15 The drop in sessions included comprehensive public exhibition material mounted on display boards to ease a walk through to appreciate what the project entails in terms of the need to divert from landfill, explaining arc21 and the procurement process, the proposed development's built elements and summarising assessment information relating to all aspects of the necessary Environmental Statement.
- 5.16 The information sessions also included audio visual material and a specific 5-minute project video of the planned facilities to fully explain the background to and proposals for Hightown Quarry. This was played to almost all attendees at the sessions. It is also available on the project website at [www.becon.co.uk](http://www.becon.co.uk).



**Fig 5.2 Home Screen of Project Website**

- 5.17 A number of discussions have taken place with two local resident groups, specifically the Mallusk Action Group and Mayfield Residents Association. Initially this involved an introduction meeting to give them an advanced understanding of the project and provide a full hard copy of the PAD documentation submitted to DoE Strategic Projects Team. This was then followed by two more specific topic based evening meetings where presentations were made on traffic and transport and potential health impact by Becon's respective advisers.
- 5.18 It was through these discussions that a request was made to extend the initial six drop in sessions to bring this into Mallusk and to repeat it during evening and weekends to give 'local' people more of an opportunity to attend and view the proposals first hand.
- 5.19 In response to this request, four further sessions were arranged – with two separate days on a Friday and Saturday at Corrs Corner Hotel (26 April 11am-7pm and 27 April 10am-4pm) and Mallusk Sports Academy (10 May 2013 3-8pm and 11 May 2013 10am-4pm). The turnout at these was modest, with 10 people through the door during the first two days at Corrs Corner and 12 people attending the events at Mallusk Sports Academy.
- 5.20 Additional information was also initiated as a consequence of the public consultation exercises with a one to one meeting arranged to follow up on concerns raised by members of Six Mile Water Trust who attended the consultation drop in sessions. Becon's planning and ecological advisers attended a meeting held at the Constituency Office of Danny Kinahan MLA to respond to specific queries raised by SMWT.
- 5.21 The Environmental Statement has been further reinforced to respond to the helpful feedback received through all of the above.
- 5.22 This has included further clarity within the ES transport section relating to the routes to be travelled by HGV vehicles to and from the site and the volume and frequency of transport

movements to and from the site. It also includes updating the contextual OS map base utilised within the document to ensure this is consistent throughout.

- 5.23 Furthermore, further safeguards and mitigation measures are now incorporated within the Construction Management Plan to respond to concerns raised about the potential to impact watercourses during construction and operational phases.
- 5.24 All public consultation exercises encouraged those who attended to take time to complete feedback forms on their views on the project following attendance at the drop in sessions. The Statement of Community Involvement that forms part of the application submission provides further information on the precise nature of the feedback received.