

**Full planning application for the alteration,
extension and refurbishment of an existing
waste management facility**

Statement of Pre-Application Engagement

**Acornfield Road/Bradman Road, Knowsley
Industrial Park**

On behalf of Stericycle.

Date: 03/08/2022 | Pegasus Ref: P21-3092



Document Management.

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Appendix 1 Public Consultation Leaflet

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Statement of Pre-Application Engagement has been prepared by Pegasus Group on behalf of Stericycle ("the Applicant") to accompany its full planning application for the alteration and extension of an existing waste management facility on the corner of Acornfield Road and Bradman Road on the Knowsley Industrial Park ("the application site").
- 1.2. In summary, the application seeks full planning permission for a development comprising the following elements:
 - Increasing throughput of waste treatment from 22,000 tonnes per annum (tpa) to circa 50,000 tpa;
 - Addition of staff parking adjacent to Bradman Road and reconfiguration of existing onsite car parking;
 - Reinstating an existing vehicular access to the facility from the Bradman Road entrance and side access road (this will be one way and for <3.5t vehicles only);
 - Refurbishment of the building to include upgrades to the building façade, new windows, roller shutter doors, etc;
 - Grading of site yard to provide level access within the site;
 - Modest extension to the northern elevation of the building and addition of a canopy to the loading bays; and
 - Alterations to the roof structure to accommodate new plant within the building.
- 1.3. A full description of the development proposals which sets out the various aspects of the scheme can be found in Section 3 of the Planning Statement.
- 1.4. This Statement is prepared pursuant to Government advice to which Applicants are encouraged to consult with the local community in preparing development proposals to provide local people and/or businesses with the opportunity to shape new development in their area. Applicants are also encouraged to engage with Planning Authorities and other stakeholders in pre-application discussion.
- 1.5. The role of pre-application discussions is not to seek to persuade or cajole people into supporting a project or application; rather it is to provide appropriate opportunities and environments within which people can communicate their concerns, or aspirations about the proposed development. Those issues and aspirations are recorded and reported to those who are engaged in designing the development project, or who are directly involved in the decision-making process.
- 1.6. This Statement therefore provides a full explanation of the pre-application consultation process and is accompanied by appendices which contain evidence of the consultation process undertaken by the Applicant.



1.7. This Statement takes the following form:

- **Section 2** looks at planning policy framework relating to community engagement;
- **Section 3** outlines the consultation process undertaken by the Applicant;
- **Section 4** details a summary of the consultation responses received and how they have been taken into account;
- **Section 5** provides a summary and conclusion.

2. Planning Policy Framework

2.1. The main planning policy references for pre-application consultation relevant to the proposals are:

- The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), published July 2021;
- The National Planning Practice Guidance web-based resource (NPPG), first published 6th March 2014, with updates; and
- Knowsley Council Statement of Community Involvement (2017).

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (July 2021)

2.2. The NPPF sets out the national planning policy for the delivery of sustainable development through the planning system.

2.3. In addressing the need for pre-application consultation, Paragraph 39 of the NPPF states:

"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 improved outcomes for the community."

2.4. Paragraph 40 sets out the roles of local planning authorities, stating:

"(Local Planning Authorities) should also, where they think this would be beneficial, encourage any applicants who are not already required to do so by law to engage with the local community and, where relevant, with statutory and non-statutory consultees, before submitting their applications."

2.5. The Applicant is therefore encouraged to provide evidence of how the community have been involved in pre-application discussions concerning the proposed development.

National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) (March 2014)

2.6. The Government's web-based NPPG went live on 6th March 2014 and contains guidance on the planning system and has been subject to updates periodically. The web-based guidance should be read alongside the NPPF and is a material consideration in the consideration of planning applications.

2.7. The NPPG further raises the importance of consultation in the planning process, in particular the desire to "front-load" consultation in the form of pre-application discussions.

2.8. The NPPG outlines in detail the consultation process which Local Authorities must follow during their determination of planning applications.

Statement of Community Involvement (2017)

2.9. Knowsley Council adopted a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) in April 2017 and is the second SCI produced by the Council. Its purpose remains unaltered; to give greater

certainty to people, communities and organisations, including businesses, about the levels of involvement they should expect within the Council's plan making and Development Management functions.

- 2.10. Paragraph 5.7 advises that the Development Management team offer pre-application advice to all applicants which allows them to understand, from the Council's perspective, the planning issues which proposed development raises, their risk to a grant of planning permission and what actions are necessary to achieve a planning permission – if the development is considered to be acceptable in principle.
- 2.11. Paragraph 5.8 advises that small-scale proposals do not usually need an applicant to undertake pre-application public consultation; but speaking to neighbours about plans and proposals can take place at an applicant's own discretion. It goes on to say that for larger scheme, pre-application engagement is more critical.
- 2.12. In the case of the application proposals, the Planning Officer advised during the pre-application discussions that community consultation is not essential but informing surrounding businesses of the forthcoming proposals would be beneficial. Accordingly, the Applicant has undertaken a targeted consultation with its immediate and surrounding neighbours. This is explained in more detail in Section 3 of this Statement.

3. The Engagement Process

Public engagement

- 3.1. Prior to the submission of the planning application, the Applicant undertook a public consultation exercise by preparing and distributing a leaflet of the proposals to the nearest business premises to the application site. A copy of the leaflet is attached at Appendix 1.

APPENDIX 1 – PUBLIC CONSULTATION LEAFLET

- 3.2. The purpose of the leaflet was to target those properties closest to the application site and potentially most affected. The leaflet provided a background to the existing use of the site, the proposed scope of development, and details on how any interested parties could submit comments to project team on the draft proposals.
- 3.3. The leaflet was distributed to businesses neighbouring the site in the L33 7UR, L33 7PA, L33 7YX and L33 7UG post codes. In total, 30 leaflets were sent out by first-class post on the 12th July 2022.
- 3.4. Interested parties were invited to comment on the proposals by the 25th July 2022. Comments could be returned to a named representative of Pegasus Group via the email address provided on the leaflet.

Pre-Application discussions with the Local Authority

- 3.5. In addition to the public consultation exercise, the Applicant has also engaged with the LPA to seek their advice prior to submission of this application. A pre-application advice request was submitted to the LPA on the 24th March 2022 and the LPA responded on 25th May 2022 (application ref: 22/00014/PREAPP). These discussions have helped develop and refine the development proposals as hereby submitted proposed in this planning application.
- 3.6. The Applicant has also submitted an EIA Screening Opinion request to the LPA (application ref: 22/00295/SO). The LPA issued their formal opinion on the 20th July 2022 confirming that:

“...although the development falls under Schedule 2 of the Regulations we do not believe that it would give rise to significant environmental effects. As such I confirm that an Environmental Impact Assessment is not required in support of your client’s planning application.”

- 3.7. Accordingly, an Environmental Statement is not required to be submitted with the planning application, however the application will be supported by a suite of technical reports assessing the impact of the proposals.



4. Consultation Responses

- 4.1. The aim of the consultation was to provide local businesses with the opportunity to comment on the development proposals, to establish general views on the proposals including an opportunity to raise any concerns that might otherwise have been missed and to make any further suggestions to improve the scheme.
- 4.2. Of the 30 leaflets issued to neighbouring businesses in the area, no responses were received to the consultation leaflet.

5. Summary and Conclusions

- 5.1. The Applicant has engaged with the both the LPA and local businesses as encouraged by Government policy, contained within the NPPF and the NPPG, and Knowsley Council's most recent SCI.
- 5.2. The public engagement exercise has allowed local businesses to consider the proposals before the planning application was finalised and the opportunity to offer suggestions and recommendations to help shape the new development in the area.
- 5.3. It is acknowledged that the process of public engagement will not always change the views of those who wish to object to a development proposal, but it ensures that there is an opportunity to openly review and discuss the proposals with the developers and their consultant team and to help shape new development.



APPENDIX 1

PUBLIC CONSULTATION LEAFLET

Stericycle, Knowsley

Pre Planning Application Notification

Introduction

Stericycle is currently in the process of preparing a planning application for the refurbishment and improvement of their existing waste management facility on the corner of Bradman Road and Acornfield Road in the Knowsley Industrial Park.

Prior to the submission of the planning application to Knowsley Council, we are as a matter of courtesy notifying local businesses of the development proposals and inviting your views before the proposals are finalised.

Proposed Development

The site is currently used as a healthcare waste management facility and the use of the site will remain as existing.

The scope of works that will be proposed in the planning application include:

- Increasing throughput of waste treatment from 22,000 tonnes per annum (tpa) to circa 50,000 tpa;
- Addition of staff parking adjacent to Bradman Road and reconfiguration of existing onsite car parking;
- Reinstating an existing vehicular access to the facility from the Bradman Road entrance and side access road (this will be one way and for <3.5t vehicles only);
- Refurbishment of the building to include upgrades to the building façade, new windows, roller shutter doors, etc;
- Grading of site yard to provide level access within the site;
- Modest extensions to the northern elevation of the building and addition of a canopy to the loading bays; and
- Alterations to the roof structure to accommodate new plant within the building.



What Happens Next

If you have any comments on the development proposals, please can you send these by email to rob.riding@pegasusgroup.co.uk by the 25th July 2022. All comments received will be carefully reviewed and considered in the process of finalising the proposals for the application. A statement summarising the feedback received, together with the response to any issues raised, will be prepared and submitted with the application. Once the application has been registered by Knowsley Council there will be a further opportunity to comment on the proposals direct to the Council should you wish to do so.

Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

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