

Greenwich Power Station: TfL response to a FOI request

A resident of Pipers House in Anchor Iron Wharf asked TfL some questions through a Freedom of Information request.

Here is what they said

1) Why were local residents not contacted prior to the 'high profile' announcement (where media were present) and the Council Leader claimed to 'represent' local views?

Prior to the Mayor's announcement, Transport for London (TfL) wrote to all residents living close to Greenwich Power Station to inform them of the proposed plans.

TfL and the Royal Borough of Greenwich will be actively engaging with local residents to make sure that the whole community is involved in the scheme over the coming years. In the next few months TfL will be rolling out a thorough programme of local engagement. This will include regular letters updating local residents on the plans as they progress, and drop-in information events where members of the local community will be able to find out more detail about the proposals, share their views and get their questions answered.

2) Was any planning approval sought? If yes, were planning laws followed, did the Mayor's office over turn/rule any planning requirements, if yes, on what grounds?

While Greenwich Power Station is not currently listed, it is a building of significant heritage. The current proposals preserve this historic building through avoiding any changes to its external appearance, therefore it is anticipated that no planning application will be required. TfL will continue to liaise with the Royal Borough of Greenwich on this matter as plans progress, and we are working closely with the Royal Borough to adhere to the Council's strict requirements and standards, and to ensure a coordinated approach to the implementation of the scheme.

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3) Was any consultation plan with local residents put in place or planned?

We want to ensure that local residents are fully informed about the scheme and we have therefore developed a comprehensive local communication plan, in close collaboration with the Royal Borough of Greenwich and the Greater London Authority. Activities include:

- Residents and businesses in the vicinity of Greenwich Power Station will be kept updated by letter drop as plans progress
- Local residents will be invited to a public drop-in information event. This will be an opportunity for the residents to find out more detail about the proposals, air their views and get their questions answered. The project is still at a very early stage, but as plans progress further public drop-in information events will be hosted
- A project page on the TfL website will be a central point of publicly available information. This is currently under construction and, once live, it will be updated regularly to reflect progress in the planning of the scheme
- A dedicated Customer Service Helpline is currently in operation to handle public queries. They are contactable on 0343 222 1155. Alternatively a query can be submitted electronically at www.tfl.gov.uk/contact (quoting Greenwich Power Station).

4) What scientific evidence has been used to justify the claims of 'low pollution/omission' and gas turbines

The new engines will be gas engines and not turbines.

TfL commissioned Atkins to carry out a feasibility study in 2014, to assess the feasibility of installing a combined heat and power plant

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in the Old Turbine Hall of Greenwich Power Station. The study concluded that there was a sound case for constructing this scheme and recommended a phased approach to match the progressive build-up of customer demand for heat across the Borough. The report recommended a gas engine solution connected to a heat network, as this would deliver a highly efficient heat and power solution.

Further work will commence in April this year to develop a concept design, which will include modelling of the likely emissions from the new engines as part of our emissions permit application to the Environment Agency. Through the procurement process for the new engines, TfL will install the best available technology to ensure the Environment Agency's strict emissions targets are met. All emissions are, and will continue to be, tightly controlled and regulated for compliance by the Environment Agency who permit the site's operational activities under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010.

5) A 'risk register' should be in the public domain – please send a copy

A project risk register will be developed as part of the project pathway process and will be made available in due course. Greenwich Power Station complies with all Health, Safety and Environmental legislation and operates under several permits and licences which are strictly regulated for compliance.

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6) Were any 'Lessons Learned' from similar sites across the world been reviewed – please share

In December 2012 TfL invited industry to engage in a Technical Dialogue to assist in the understanding of how Greenwich Power Station could be redeveloped, with particular attention to the generation and distribution of heat, from both a technical and financial perspective. Responses were received from industry organisations including consultants, original equipment suppliers and energy/construction companies, each providing a different approach in their concepts and recommendations for consideration.

In addition, using Atkins, an external independent consultant with a wealth of experience in the field to carry out the feasibility work ensures that best practice from other similar projects is incorporated in this scheme.

Heat networks are common in many parts of Europe and there are several large scale in the UK. There are a number of new schemes in London either recently delivered or in the process of being delivered that we are well aware of. A scheme was launched in Southwark last year by South East London Combined Heat and Power in conjunction with Southwark Council. There are also schemes in advanced stages of development in Enfield, Vauxhall Nine Elms/Battersea and Sutton. TfL is working very closely with the Mayor's Decentralised Energy Programme Delivery Unit who will be leading on the implementation of decentralised energy and heating networks in London.

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7) How long have 'enabling works' at the site been going on – prior to announcement last week?

No enabling works have been carried out on site prior to the announcement. There have been non-intrusive feasibility studies which have involved desk top exercises and site visits

8) Please send copies of all 'Minutes' of all meetings where this project was discussed

Minutes were not distributed after any of the meetings where this project was discussed, therefore we do not hold this information.

9) With TFL, Mayors Office and Greenwich Council all involved in the project announcement – who is the named responsible officer/organisation for the project and the risk register?

The project and associated materials, including the risk register are being led by Transport for London. The Royal Borough's role will be two fold; one as planning authority to ensure the project does not breach any of their requirements, and secondly in the potential development of the heat network. Greater London Authority's role is predominantly in facilitating the delivery of the heat network.

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10) Who are the stakeholders of the project

The stakeholders for the Greenwich Power Station project are:

- Royal Borough of Greenwich
- Greater London Authority
- Environment Agency
- Political representatives
- Local residents, community groups and businesses
- Emergency Services
- Port of London Authority

Further stakeholders will be confirmed as the project develops.

11) Was the London Fire Service contacted as part of the scoping exercise – reports of gas leaks from the site over the past few years can be found

There have been no gas leaks from Greenwich Power Station. As part of normal and planned maintenance activities to the station's natural gas system, there is a requirement to vent off natural gas to atmosphere under controlled conditions. This requirement is not a routine activity and consists of approximately six occasions per year.

The London Fire Brigade is satisfied that the site is well managed and that all suitable control measures are in place, with no actions required.

The station's operational activities are currently, and will continue to be, undertaken as to standard industry practices and recommendations which are governed and licensed by the Environment Agency and other regulatory authorities, and as such its operations monitored for strict compliance.