

6.10 Visitor Centre

6.10.1 The comments raised in respect of the visitors centre issues during Phase Two Consultation are summarised in Table 6.9, together with the Applicant's response.

Table 6.9: Comments on the visitor centre received in Phase Two Consultation

Ref	Issue	SC	LA	LI	No. CC	CC IDs	Applicant's response	Change
Visitor centre								
Visitor centre								
6.10.2	Support the principle of a visitor centre.	-	-	-	26	5; 63; 78; 87; 94; 95; 10046; 10075; 10085; 10088; 10089; 10090; 10091; 10094; 10097; 10100; 10103; 10106; 10108; 10109; 10111; 10112; 10114; 10117; 10118; 10120	Support is noted and welcomed.	N
6.10.3	Support because it would benefit the local area by: a) attracting visitors; b) helping reduce littering; c) offering free compost to local residents.	-	-	-	12	10045; 10081; 10099; 10101; 10102; 10104; 10105; 10107; 10110; 10115; 10119; 10120		N
6.10.4	Support because it would serve as a source of information and would enhance knowledge of waste management.	-	WCC; LBE	LVRPA	23	62; 68; 80; 83; 94; 10047; 10076; 10078; 10081; 10082; 10083; 10084; 10087; 10092; 10093; 10095;		N

Ref	Issue	SC	LA	LI	No. CC	CC IDs	Applicant's response	Change
Visitor centre								
						10096; 10098; 10099; 10101; 10102; 10105; 10116		
6.10.5	Support if is well-maintained.	-	-	-	1	10086	EcoPark House will be managed and maintained by the future operator of the Edmonton EcoPark.	N
6.10.6	Oppose because: a) there would be no public demand;	-	-	-	4	66; 86; 99; 89	EcoPark House would provide facilities for those taking tours of the proposed ERF, which would continue to be provided as they are now of the existing EfW facility.	N
	b) it is designed for PR purposes.						EcoPark House is intended to educate the local community and others about the waste hierarchy and energy production.	N
Suggestions								
6.10.7	Suggested alternatives include: a) have it as an online space with education videos;	-	-	-	2	66; 77	It would not be possible to achieve the same level of engagement and education if an online facility were provided. Furthermore, the Edmonton Sea Cadets require a physical base which has access to the wharf.	N
	b) use the money to promote recycling/launch an awareness campaign.						NLWA already has active programmes to encourage waste prevention, re-use and recycling. NLWA's "Wise up to Waste" campaign has more details of this activity (See: http://www.wiseuptowaste.org.uk/).	N

Ref	Issue	SC	LA	LI	No. CC	CC IDs	Applicant's response	Change
Visitor centre								
6.10.8	Suggested facilities include:	-	-	-	3	10090; 10120; 10086	EcoPark House includes space for educational uses.	N
	a) educational centre for eco-learning projects;						EcoPark House includes space for community uses which will be available for hire by local groups.	N
	b) social space for local groups of all ages;						Catering facilities for those using the building will be provided, however a café is not proposed since the visitor numbers are unlikely to be sufficient to warrant this.	N
	c) café;						There is not sufficient space in EcoPark House to accommodate a multi gaming/sports ground.	N
	d) a multi-gaming/sport ground.							
6.10.9	Facilities are EcoPark House should be free of charge, user friendly and accessible to all sections of the community, including children and adults with disabilities.	-	-	-	3	10113; 10080; 10079	Any pricing policy will be determined shortly before the facility opens, however NLWA is a public authority and it is unlikely to be in the public interest to provide the facilities completely free of charge. EcoPark House will be designed to be accessible to all potential user groups.	N
6.10.10	Improve the tow path by river Lea to provide a safe cycling route.	-	-	-	1	82	Improvements to the towpath are outside the scope of the Project however a cycle lanes will be provided along Lee Park Way as part of the Project.	N
6.10.11	The Visitors Centre should be advertised.	-	-	-	1	79	Suggestions for operation of EcoPark House will be taken into account prior to opening.	N

Ref	Issue	SC	LA	LI	No. CC	CC IDs	Applicant's response	Change
Visitor centre								
Uses								
6.10.12	The Visitor Centre should serve as: a) educational centre; b) community space; c) destination for river users.	-	-	-	4	10046; 92; 88; 82	EcoPark House would provide facilities for educational and community uses and to accommodate the Edmonton Sea Cadets who regularly use the River Lee Navigation.	N
Sea Cadets								
6.10.13	Support proposals to retain the Edmonton Sea Cadets on EcoPark site.	CRT	-	LWL; LVRPA	1	10047	Support is noted and welcomed.	N

Account taken of Phase Two Visitor Centre comments

- 6.10.14 There was support for the inclusion of EcoPark House (the visitors' centre) in the Project, with responses noting that it would serve as a source of information and enhance knowledge of waste management, enables the Edmonton Sea Cadets to remain on-site and would attract visitors. Other respondents considered that there would not be demand for a visitors centre and it is a PR exercise.
- 6.10.15 Some respondents suggested alternatives to a visitor's centre including an online space and launching an awareness campaign. It would not be possible to achieve the same level of engagement using an online space and the NLWA already has active programmes to encourage waste prevention, re-use and recycling.
- 6.10.16 Facilities suggested to be included in the visitor's centre include space for education and community uses, both of which are incorporated. Other suggestions include a café and multi-gaming/sports ground which are not incorporated because there would not be sufficient visitor numbers to warrant a café and there is not sufficient space to accommodate a multi-gaming/sports ground.
- 6.10.17 Suggestions for the management and operation of EcoPark House were made, for example it should be advertised and free of charge. These would be taken into account prior to opening.
- 6.10.18 The height of EcoPark House has been reduced from three to two storeys in response to comments raised during Phase Two Consultation, as noted in Section 6.6.