

# WRIGHTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Meeting of the Council of the Parish of Wrightington held on Monday 21 September 2015 at Appley Bridge Village Hall at 7.30pm the following were present:

Councillors: Mr F Hodgkinson (Chairman), Mrs J Burton, Mr F Johnson, Mr P Gartside. Also present PCSO Benson and a large number of members of the public.

## OPEN FORUM

(At this point in the Meeting members of the public present can report, ask questions, raise issues and make observations on parish matters or items appearing on the Agenda. Reports will also be received from the Police, District and County Councillors if attending – Once open forum is closed the Chairman will only suspend standing orders to allow public participation in extreme circumstances.)

LCC/2015/0088 - Low temperature pyrolysis plant to convert low worth waste plastic into diesel and gasoline. Appley Biomass To Energy Ltd Depot, West Quarry Railway Pad, Appley Bridge – there were a large number of residents present to ask for Parish Council support in objecting to these proposals. The Chairman explained that the Parish Council would not be making any judgement on the application at this stage of the Meeting however, historically, and with a similar application in 2013, the Parish Council objected to proposals of this nature at this location. The basis of the objections in the past have been on highway safety grounds, an increase in vehicular movements, particularly HGV's, along a route which has serious parking problems. Objections also related to noise, nuisance, smells and the adverse impact on the quality of life of residents. Furthermore, the Parish Council maintains the opinion that the original conditions attached to the planning permission for infill at the Quarry have not been fulfilled and that the pad should have been removed once importation of waste ceased and the land should have been handed back to the community for leisure and amenity use as stipulated in the conditions. More recently, the Parish Council has suggested on a number of occasions that, if the pad is not being removed, then it should be utilised as a car park for commuters using the railway station, providing a means to address the horrendous parking problems on Appley Lane North. The Parish Council strongly advised all those present to submit their observations as individuals to both West Lancs. BC and LCC, so that both are aware of the strength of public opinion and objections to the proposals. It was stressed that objections should be on valid planning grounds and that emotional grounds will be discounted by planning officers and the planning committees. The residents present were also advised to lobby their local Borough and County Councillors and to request that the application be called in so that it is discussed by the Planning Committee rather than a delegated decision being made. The Council also suggested that anyone who wished to speak at the planning committee meeting at which this is discussed should register with LCC to be able to do so at the Committee Meeting. Residents stressed that the consultation/notification process for this application has been almost non-existent. Notices of the proposals posted on the telegraph poles were ripped off and on the floor, the gate to the site where another notice was located is too far back from the footways on Appley Lane North to be clearly visible. No residents have been informed by letter despite recent editorial in a local newspaper stating that they would be. This site was in the past used as a testing area to determine how to control methane levels when importation of waste ceased. Methane is still leaking from the site and will continue to do so for many years. As a result of the infill of household waste and the resultant build-up of methane, the site is contaminated land which is highly volatile and with an ongoing risk of explosion. Incidences of this caused considerable damage to offices on the site and an evacuation of a large number of residents in the past. The research and tests into the emissions from the proposals on the site cannot be considered independent as they have been carried out by one of the companies involved in the application and who are hoping to build the plant. This type of activity has not been carried out anywhere else in this country and therefore the results are based on generic situations and assumptions. Furthermore, it was reported that the plant which the company are proposing to install does not hold an EU patent for use in this country. The plastic they are proposing to import contains all sorts of chemicals and pyrolysing these compounds can be very dangerous. It was also reported that the burning of some of these chemicals will be injurious to the residents of Appley Bridge and, with the proposed height of the stack and distillation columns, the emissions will affect other neighbouring Parishes, could contaminate farmland and, possibly even enter water courses. There is no mention of any capture measures to ensure that the emissions are safe. It was suggested that incidences of chest complaints from residents of Appley Bridge have increased due to the infill which took place at the quarry in the past. Those present were informed that there is a local residents group called ABCAGE

who will co-ordinate a collective means of objecting using social media and a contact list of emails. ABCAGE will produce a sample response which residents can use as the basis of their own objections. The Parish Council agreed that they would provide free use of the Village Hall if ABCAGE wished to hold a residents meeting to assist in distributing the information. The Parish Council will also provide a donation of £25.00 towards printing costs of flyers/leaflets etc. to assist with the dissemination of information on meetings and objections. A resident present also offered assistance with printing services. A Shevington Parish Councillor present reported that this matter will be discussed at their forthcoming Meeting on Thursday. It was stressed that a planning application for floating houses and a hotel on East Quarry included the provision of a new Community Centre and a trim trail on the now grassed West Quarry. The permission was granted for the houses and hotel however the Community Centre and trim trail were removed from the application. It was once again stressed that if the conditions attached to the original planning permission for infill had been adhered to the land would have been handed over to the community along with £50,000 for leisure and amenity use. The general feeling is that Appley Bridge has once again been chosen as a test site and residents, businesses, schools, parents, school governors and all the community groups need to submit their observations and objections to these proposals. There could be a significant health impact on the school children as the school is less than 500 metres away from the proposed site. The Parish Council suggested that the application should be called in by the local Councillors and that a site visit be requested together with a request to send a representative along to the site meeting. Any further information which can be obtained by residents or ABCAGE will be forwarded to the Parish Council who will take account of this when determining their decision on the application later in the Meeting.

PCSO Benson – Reported the crime figures for the last month with a total of 13 crimes but nothing too worrying compared to the same time last year when there were 24 crimes. There has been a reduction across the board in all types of crimes. PCSO Benson now has a work mobile telephone and can be contacted on: - 0781624069. PCSO Benson agreed to follow up a report of a car parking on Moss Lane with the occupants asleep in it. This happens quite regularly. A further report of a raid at the local mini market in Heskin in the last 2 weeks was made.

48. **APOLOGIES** - Were received and accepted from Councillor Mr J Clinch (holidays) and also from PC Lodge.
49. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Members were asked to consider any personal/prejudicial Interest they may have to disclose in relation to matters under discussion at the Meeting – **Councillor Johnson declared an interest in the application for a donation by Wrightington Pensioners Group.** No other declarations were made at this point in the Meeting however, should a Councillor feel he/she has any interest in later matters he/she will declare it at that point.
50. **MINUTES** – The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 20 July 2015 had been circulated in advance of the Meeting, were accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
51. **UPDATE/PROGRESS WITH ISSUES RAISED AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING** - Nothing specific to report that will not be dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda.

52. **CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION ITEMS**

Items reported to, and noted by, the Council – no decision required: REPORT 1 – page 6 - ACCEPTED

Items requiring discussion, observations or action by the Council:

- a) Request for a Donation from Wrightington Pensioners' Welfare Association – Having declared an interest Councillor Johnson took no part in these discussions or the decision making process. **Resolved – A donation of £100.00 will be made at the next Meeting.**
- b) Request for further information on reported incidents with the Ironman 2015 event – **Information and contact details supplied.**
- c) Invitation for 2 representatives of the Parish Council to attend the West Lancs. BC Civic Sunday Service – 4 October 2015 – 3pm at the Parish Church, Ormskirk – **Councillor Gartside will attend on behalf of Wrightington Parish Council.**

- d) Invitation to attend Lathom Parish Council Civic Service, Sunday 4 October – 11am at Lathom Park Chapel, Lathom – **Parish Council apologies will be forwarded.**
- e) Confirmation that if you wish to join in the Countrywide Sign Posting Project, contractors can be paid £15 per signpost, plus the cost of postcrete if required, and materials will be provided – **Resolved: The Parish Council will express an interest in this project and once the electronic map has been received, sign posts requiring attention will be identified by Parish Councillors and details passed back to LCC for action.**
- f) Request from VIP for Trustees to join the VIP Board of Trustees – **Noted on file.**
- g) Response to issues relating to parking at Mossfields reported following the July Meeting – **It will be confirmed that it was the Housing Officer who suggested the parking spaces be numbered to correspond with the tenants home numbers so that parking in a designated space would resolve problems.**
- h) Request from a resident of Robin Hood Lane for the support of the Parish Council to ensure that the promised reduction in speed limit on Robin Hood Lane is implemented – **The Clerk will pursue this matter.**
- i) Confirmation from VIP that they have secured funding to continue the networking they have begun and, notification that they can promote community events – **Noted on file.**
- j) Confirmation that the Audit of the Parish Council accounts for the year ending 31 March 2015 has been completed with no matters arising and no issues arising report required - **Resolved: The completed audit with no matters arising is accepted & approved.**
- k) Letter from LCC re: Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 – Part III. Upgrading of Wrightington Footpath 21 to Bridleway between Moss Lane and Mossy Lea Road, Wrightington, West Lancs, File No. 804-561. Notification that the LCC Regulatory Committee determined that the investigation to modify the Definitive Map and Statement of Public Right of Way should be accepted, copy Notice of Acceptance attached. – Plus, A letter of complaint and objection to the proposed upgrading from a landowner over which the public right of way passes – Plus, Confirmation from West Lancs. BC that TPO's are only on trees at the Mossy Lea Fold end of this public right of way – Plus, a second letter of objection from a resident – **The Parish Council discussed the contents of the correspondence received. It was reported that, despite the large numbers of horses and riders in the Parish there are currently no bridleways in Wrightington. If this upgrading goes ahead this will be the first bridleway in Wrightington. If the route is upgraded it will be re-stoned to provide a suitable multi use surfaced route. Councillor Mrs Burton reported receiving a letter from the landowners following one of her teachers taking a ride along this route. Since receiving this letter on 15/8/15, neither Mrs Burton nor any of her teachers/riders have used this route on horseback. Councillor Mrs Burton also felt that the letter implied that she had some involvement in cutting back of trees at the Moss Lane end of the right of way. Councillor Mrs Burton confirmed that she had absolutely no involvement in this whatsoever. The question of whether Mossy Lea Fold is an adopted road or a right of way was raised, however, no information was available to answer this. It was reported that the resident stopping Mrs Burton's teacher had taken photographs and details of the teacher and had also possibly photographed the children. The Parish Council confirmed that they are not the decision makers in this process and that the decision as to whether the upgrade goes ahead or not is, and always has been, a Lancashire County Council decision.**
- l) Confirmation that, following the Parish Councils negative response to meeting landowners requesting a public footpath diversion order at Boars Den to discuss this matter, the landowners will be attending the Parish Council Meeting to discuss – **The Clerk reported that the applicants had been asked to provide details to LCC of how they propose to address the concerns and objections raised by the Parish Council to the proposed diversion. Once these proposals have been submitted to LCC, they will then ask the Parish Council to consider the resolutions suggested by the applicant. At this point the Parish Council will consider the applicants proposals, discuss whether they will address the Parish Councils concerns and objections and, the Council will review the observations they wish to submit if they feel it appropriate.**

- m) Progress with Road Safety Poster campaign. Joint initiative with the Police and Parish Council – **The Clerk reported on a Meeting with PC Lodge to progress the poster competition. Initially this will involve the 2 schools on Mossy Lea Road, year 6 pupils, with 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners being chosen from each school. Posters will then be copied, laminated and displayed in the Wrightington Ward and the Parish Council will provide Book Tokens to the value of £10, £15 and £20 to the winners in each school. It has been suggested that judging will be undertaken by someone from the Police, possibly the Police Commissioner for our area, someone from the Parish Council and possibly the Mayor of West Lancs or Dave Guest from the TV. PC Lodge will be going into schools to talk to the head teacher about the competition following which, she will attend assemblies to explain to the pupils about the competition and its purpose. Once this project is complete a road safety poster competition will then be arranged for All Saints School in Appley Bridge.**
- n) Late items received which may require discussion/action/observations – i) a copy of a letter sent to LCC by a resident on Appley Lane North following notification of the proposed intermittent yellow lines on Appley Lane North to provide passing places for vehicles affected by the commuter parking along this route – **Noted. It was also reported that the bus stop has not been marked which adds to the parking/passing problems on Appley Lane North**

**53. STANDING ORDERS – Resolved:** In Accordance with Standing Order No 19, Standing Order No 18 was suspended to allow the remaining items of business to be conducted.

**54. HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

- Street lights W1 & W4, Church Lane, are leaning backwards and require attention.
- Councillor Johnson has visited the footpath at Boars Den which is the subject of the diversion order. It was agreed the Council will await correspondence on this matter from LCC.
- Trees on Chisnall Avenue are obscuring the first and second street light on the right hand side.
- Crab apples from a tree at 320 Mossy Lea Road are on the footways, the carriageway and, are now blocking the drains.
- LCC will be asked to correspond with the owners of 19B Broadhurst Lane regarding overgrown hedges which need cutting back.
- Councillor Johnson agreed to speak to landowners requesting their assistance with cutting back overgrown hedges at the junction of Tunley Lane/Mossy Lea Road, on Mossy Lea Road between Boundary Lane and the BP Garage, and on Moss Lane between Wrightington Country Club and the Church.
- LCC will be asked to cut back hedges on both sides of the road, and some of the elderberry trees, on Crow Orchard Road, from Junction 27 to Wrightington Fish Ponds.
- Damaged hazard marker posts near street light W4 on Church Lane will be reported to LCC.
- The road signs on Mossy Lea Road, opposite the Boundary Lane junction are obscured with overgrown vegetation.
- It was again stressed that the wide piece of wooded grass verge on the left hand side of Moss Lane would provide a suitable site for a safe walkway if trimmed and cut back to allow access for other road users eg: runners, walkers, joggers, cyclists and horse-riders.
- The previously reported ragwort at the rear of the BP Garage and in the hedge along Mossy Lea Road from the garage to Boundary Lane, has now seeded and will spread in to the fields.

**55. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES** – Nothing to report.

**56. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY** – Sunday 8 November 2015. Confirmation policing is in place. Road closure order applied for. Service and wreaths arrangements on-going. It was confirmed that the Vice-Chairman of Shevington PC will be laying a wreath in Appley Bridge again this year

**57. VILLAGE HALLS**

MOSSY LEA – Hot Pot Supper and Sing-a-long Friday 6 November – Christmas Craft & Gift Fair Sunday 29 November 2015. The plumber will be asked to change the taps in the toilets and kitchen to a press top type which will stop running automatically after a short while. This will prevent another large water bill when the tap was left running.

APPLEY BRIDGE – Nothing specific to report.

**58. PLANNING** To discuss the following applications:

**Planning Applications during summer recess for ratification – REPORT 2 – page 7 - Resolved: Decisions approved.**

- 1) 2015/0907/FUL Alterations and extensions to existing bungalow to form two storey house. 2 (Case 1797643) Mossy Lea Road, Wrightington. **Resolved: No objections provided the neighbours on Mossy Lea Road and adjacent have none.**
- 2) LCC/2015/0088 Low temperature pyrolysis plant to convert low worth waste plastic into diesel and gasoline. The facility includes a fuel reception hall, conveyors, chemical treatment, fractionation columns, fuel storage tanks, a generator set and offices. The facility uses the non-condensable gases and some of the product gasoline as fuel to meet the plants heat and power requirements. Appley Biomass To Energy Ltd Depot, West Quarry Railway Pad, Appley Bridge. **Resolved: The Parish Council will take account of all the objections raised during Open Forum and collect and collate all information received from ABCAGE following which, a full letter of objection will be submitted to West Lancs. BC and LCC (Copy attached at Report 4 pages 7-9) taking account of, and including, all the objections raised.**
- 3) 2015/0790/FUL Single storey front, side and rear extensions. Installation of windows and doors and internal alterations. Moss View Farm, Tunley Lane, Wrightington. **Resolved: No objections.**
- 4) 2015/0888/FUL Alterations to front including new vehicular access to provide off road parking. 62 (Case 179647) Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge. **Resolved: No objections.**

**59. LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS** – Next Area Committee Meeting Thursday 15 October 2015, Ormskirk. Copy unaudited accounts for year ending 31/3/15 – **Noted.**

**60. ACCOUNTS** - To receive the following list of accounts for Approval:

**Payments during summer recess for ratification – REPORT 3 – page 7 – Resolved: Approved.**

**For Payment:**

AB Pensioners SC	Donation	£100.00
Fire Eqpmnt Servs.	Servicing Fire Extinguishers at MLVH	£41.23
Mr G Ross	Reimburse cost of renewal of Domain Name	£6.99
Mr D Proe	Amenity cutting £178 + ABVH Grass £69 + Notice Board Repairs ABVH £30 + materials £5.43 + Cleaning Bus Shelters £50 + Hedge Cut £25	£357.43
E.on	Electricity supplied at ABVH	£79.32
British Gas	Gas supplied at MLVH	£39.82
BDO LLP	Annual Audit Fee	£240.00
Mrs C A Cross	Clerk's Salary – Net	£618.72
HM Rev. & Customs	Tax due by Clerk	£4.20
ABCAGE	Donation towards printing costs for Biomass related material	£25.00
D/D Utd Utilities	Water supplied at MLVH (estimated bill + tap left running)	£555.25
D/D E.on	Electricity supplied at MLVH	£107.07

(Notification that electricity prices will increase from 31 July 2015)

**Receipts:**

West Lancs. BC	2 <sup>nd</sup> half of the Precept	£4292.00
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**Resolved: Payment and receipt of the above accounts be approved.**

**61. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED: That the next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 19 October 2015 at Mossy Lea Village Hall at 7:30 pm.

Minutes 48 to 61 will be accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman at the Meeting to be held on Monday 19 October 2015.

Meeting Closed: 10:40 pm

Chairman:

Date:

## **REPORT 1**

- a) Notification permission refused for 2 storey front extension, extension to garage with first floor extension over, extension over existing single storey rear extension. 15 The Grove, Appley Bridge.
- b) Notification prior to agricultural and demolition PD is required for the method of partial demolition of agricultural building and proposed restoration of site. Boggart House Farm, High Moor Lane.
- c) Notification permission refused for second storey extension to be built on top of existing single storey extension. This would be 2.93m from the existing house. Also loft extension. 7 Canal Bank.
- d) Notification permission granted for demolition of existing linked garage at side and erection of kitchen extension at side with dormer bedroom above including erection of front extension to form entrance porch. 4 Manse Avenue.
- e) Notification, and invitation to attend, an informal meeting with Insp. Chessell on Monday 21 September 2015 at 7pm at Skelmersdale Police Station. (I have explained that it is the Parish Council Meeting but if a Councillor would like to attend please inform me asap).
- f) Confirmation highway matters have been reported to County Councillor Fillis.
- g) Confirmation that the hedge adjacent to footpath No. 4 has been cut back by the landowner.
- h) Confirmation the route of footpath No.5b should be cut back in the next couple of weeks by the public rights of way team.
- i) Confirmation that footpath No.23b has been added to the list for consideration for upgrading as part of the Lancashire Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan, with no promise that this will be successful.
- j) Confirmation that footpath No.19 was inspected and the deteriorated fingerpost was removed and a new arrow sign was put on the metal post by the bus stop on Mossy Lea Road.
- k) Confirmation that West Lancs. BC do not consider that a screening opinion is required for 2015/0626/SCR – proposed solar development on land at junction of Courage Low Lane/Tunley Lane and that the many issues raised by the Parish Council could be adequately addressed in the event a full planning application is submitted through assessment in line with the development plan.
- l) Confirmation that the proposed regulation order for intermittent yellow lines on Appley Lane North is currently with LCC Legal Team at the first stage of consultation. This will be followed by public consultation and comments prior to the installation and sealing of the legal order. It is envisaged the process should be completed within the next 26 weeks should no objections be received. + Notification of these proposals for your information, comment or objection.
- m) Copy press release from West Lancs. BC re: litter.
- n) Notification of adoption of the South Ribble Local Plan (Site Allocations & Development Management Policies Development Plan Document).
- o) Notification the appeal against refusal of permission for change of use from agricultural barn to office, storage and entertainment venue, Swifts House Farm, Bentley Lane, timetable has been amended.
- p) Confirmation that LCC officers will arrange for a traffic count to be undertaken on Skull House Lane to gauge the levels of HGV's usage.
- q) Confirmation LCC officers will discuss your request to lower the speed limit on Courage Low Lane with the police.
- r) Confirmation LCC officers will undertake an assessment and discuss the request to lower the speed limit on Toogood Lane with the police.
- s) Confirmation LCC officers will undertake an assessment and discuss the request to lower the speed limit on Toogood Lane with the police.
- t) Notification the bid to VIP for funding towards purchase of new toasters at MLVH was unsuccessful.
- u) Update from Wigan Council on employment land review.
- v) Confirmation from Chorley Council of the adoption of the Chorley Local Plan 2012-26.
- w) Letter of thanks for assistance from a resident of Chisnall Avenue.
- x) Copy CPRE Fieldwork.
- y) Copy CPRE Countryside Voice.

## **REPORT 2**

- 1) 2015/0750/FUL – Variation of condition No3 imposed on planning permission 2014/1191/FUL to allow alternative materials to be used. 128 Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge. **Resolved: No Objections.**
- 2) 2015/0752/FUL – Extensions to existing house and car parking. 1 Canal Bank, Appley Bridge. **Resolved: No Objections.**
- 3) 2015/0800/PNH – Application for determination as to whether prior approval of details is required – change of use of agricultural building to a dwellinghouse (Use Class C3), and for associated operational development. Boggart House Farm, High Moor Lane, Wrightington. **Resolved: No Objections.**
- 4) 2015/0799/PND - Application for determination as to whether prior approval is required for the method of partial demolition of agricultural building and proposed restoration of the site. Boggart House Farm, High Moor Lane, Wrightington. **Resolved: No Objections.**
- 5) 2015/0838/PNH - Application for determination as to whether prior approval of details is required - Extension of dwellinghouse. Dimension from rear wall of original dwellinghouse - 4.5m Maximum height of extension - 3.335m Height to eaves of extension - 2.42m. 15 Stonemill Rise, Appley Bridge. **Resolved: No Objections.**
- 6) 2015/0816/FUL - Convert stable block to one bedroom single storey bungalow. Tunley Moss Stables, Tunley Moss, Wrightington, Lancashire WN6 9RQ. **Resolved: No Objections.**
- 7) 2015/0828/FUL - Single storey rear extension, reconfigured fenestration and chimney breast to North elevation. Lower Broadhurst Farm, 8 Broadhurst Lane, Wrightington. **Resolved: No Objections.**

## **REPORT 3**

Paid during the summer recess:

West Lancs. BC	Uncontested Election charges	£240.00
Morgan Electrical	Replacement lights ABVH	£312.00
United Utilities	Water charges ABVH	£114.84
British Gas	Gas charges MLVH	£42.05
Petty Cash		£25.00
C A Cross	Clerk's Salary (Net)	£618.92
HM Rev. & Customs	Tax due by Clerk	£4.00
Tom Goulding	Water leak repairs ABVH	£50.00

## **REPORT 4**

Mr R Jones  
Development Management  
PO Box 100  
County Hall  
PRESTON  
PR1 0LD

Dear Mr Jones,

### **APPLICATION: LCC/2015/0088**

**PROPOSAL: LOW TEMPERATURE PYROLYSIS PLANT TO CONVERT LOW WORTH WASTE PLASTIC INTO DIESEL AND GASOLINE. THE FACILITY INCLUDES A FUEL RECEPTION HALL, CONVEYORS, CHEMICAL TREATMENT, FRACTIONATION COLUMNS, FUEL STORAGE TANKS A GENERATOR SET AND OFFICES. THE FACILITY USES THE NON-CONDENSABLE GASES AND SOME OF THE PRODUCT GASOLINE AS FUEL TO MEET THE PLANTS HEAT AND POWER REQUIREMENTS.**

**LOCATION: APPLEY BIOMASS TO ENERGY LTD DEPOT, WEST QUARRY RAILWAY PAD, APPLEY LANE NORTH, APPLEY BRIDGE GR: 352091 409556**

Wrightington Parish Council would like to submit extremely strong objections, and express total opposition, to the above proposals for a low temperature pyrolysis plant to convert low worth waste plastic into diesel and gasoline at a Biomass Depot on West Quarry Railway Pad, off Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge. Wrightington Parish Council's objections are based on the following points:

Since the cessation of infill in West Quarry, Wrightington Parish Council has always believed that, in line with the conditions attached to the planning permission granted to allow importation of waste to the quarry, the pad should have been removed and the land returned back to the Community as promised. This blatant breach of planning conditions should have been the subject of enforcement action for many years by both West Lancashire Borough Council and by Lancashire County Council.

However, as this course of action has never been pursued the Parish Council has, at every available opportunity, suggested that the Pad be utilised as a car park for commuters using Appley Bridge Railway Station thereby alleviating significant parking problems on Appley Lane North.

The Parish Council do not consider that enough consultation has been undertaken with local residents who will be significantly affected, in numerous ways, by these proposals. Judging from the large number of residents who recently attended the Wrightington Parish Council Meeting, the strength of public objection to these proposals is significant. To date the Parish Council has not been contacted by the applicant, who also did not notify the Parish Council of the drop-in consultation evening recently held in the local community centre.

Having examined the planned proposals and supplementary documentation in support of the proposals, the Parish Council believe that the value, content, and results, of the Environmental Impact Assessment are significantly compromised and weakened by the fact that it has been undertaken by the agent for the project. Therefore, the EIA is neither, independent, fair, nor truly objective as there is an obvious conflict of interest since the company undertaking it has a significant interest in the success of the proposals.

Furthermore, the information contained within the EIA has been obtained as part of a desk exercise, using computer generated information and parameters which cannot possibly be truly reflective of the potential effects these proposals will have on the semi-rural village of Appley Bridge. No account is taken of the fact that the location of the proposed plant will be at one of the lowest parts of the village, at the base of the Douglas Valley. Whilst major factors such as temperature inversion, the prevailing southerly winds and the impact on the air quality for residents of the village have been completely ignored.

The Parish Council, and the residents of Appley Bridge and surrounding Parishes, are extremely concerned that, to allow these proposals to go ahead in Appley Bridge would have a significant detrimental impact on their quality of life. The air quality in Appley Bridge, surrounding villages and amenity areas in the Parish such as Fairy Glen, which is a designated Local County Biological Heritage Site and is only 500 metres from the proposed site, would be seriously compromised by the pollutants from the plant.

The Council believe that a Health Impact Assessment should be undertaken by an independent body to determine the short and long term effects of the pollutants from the exhaust stack on local residents living close to the plant and, on the 200 primary school children attending All Saints Primary School which is a mere 500 metres from the proposed plant, and also on the local wildlife found in the nearby Fairy Glen, along the Canal Bank and Parbold Hill.

An assessment of whether leakage of contaminants from the plant could pollute local watercourses or farmland where stock may be affected and the food-chain contaminated should be undertaken. The impact of resultant carcinogenic compounds left once the plastic has been through the plant process also gives serious cause for concern. The fact that the sorting process will be reliant on manual work means that there is the potential for human error which could result in significant health and safety issues. The fact the site is located on, and adjacent to, contaminated land where methane levels are still being monitored and leakages of methane in the past have resulted in explosions and fires should be considered. The leakage from the neighbouring landfill site has been completely ignored in the safety assessments. The proposals to produce highly flammable liquids from waste plastic, combined with the possible leakage of methane from the adjacent site, must not be overlooked by planning officers.

The already existing parking problems on Appley Lane North will be exacerbated by the addition of another 20 vehicular HGV movements per day to and from the site together with, an increase in car movements depending on the number of employees entering and exiting the site both during the day and in the unsociable hours associated with a plant which operates 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

Together with the above, the Parish Council believe that the constant noise from a plant which operates 24/7 and the odour produced both from the storage of the imported plastic, and from the chemical process used to breakdown the plastic into diesel and gasoline, will significantly impact on the residents and wildlife in Appley Bridge.

The visual impact of the 17.5m stack and the distillation column are considered inappropriate in the Douglas Valley in accordance with West Lancashire Borough Council Supplementary Planning Guidance for natural areas and areas of landscape historical importance which states that "tall, columnar construction is inappropriate" for the Douglas Valley Area. Therefore, there will be a significant loss of visual amenity for both local residents and anyone viewing Appley Bridge from the Parbold Hill direction as the stack and distillation column, together with any smoke/pollutant plume from the stack, will be clearly visible for miles around and, from various viewpoints.

The Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Local Plan details all locations throughout Lancashire which have been identified for the processing of waste and this site is not included in the list. In fact, the Leeds Liverpool Canal is defined by West Lancashire Borough Council as "an important habitat and corridor through the area" whilst Fairy Glen is described as "a designated Local County Biological Heritage Site" and yet both are located less than 500metres from the proposed plant.

The fact that the plant which it is proposed will be installed at this site does not hold an EU patent and has not been tested anywhere else in this country will result in Appley Bridge, and West Lancashire being used as a test site for experimental purposes. The residents and wildlife in Appley Bridge will also be test cases for the short and long term effects of locating this type of plant/factory in residential areas. As such, it is therefore impossible for anyone, to predict the level of impact that these



proposals will have on the lives of the residents of Appley Bridge, of neighbouring Parishes and on this beautiful part of West Lancashire.

It has been suggested that the Lancashire County Council recycling plant at Farrington would be a more suitable location for this type of plant. The carbon footprint would also be reduced if the Pyrolysis Plant was incorporated into the Farrington Recycling site as there would be no need to use HGV's to transport the plastics through the County to Appley Bridge.

As yet unsubstantiated reports have also been made that Lancashire County Council has been in discussion with P-fuels for 2 years and, have already agreed to be a contributor of plastics to the facility. If this is the case there is clearly a conflict of interest in the decision making process as the planning application is a County Application which will be considered by Lancashire County Council.

The Parish Council would urge Planning Officers to take this application to Planning Committee and would urge Planning Committee Members to arrange a site visit so that they can see for themselves the significant detrimental impact these proposals will have on Appley Bridge and the surrounding area.

Should a site visit be arranged the Parish Council would like to request that they be allowed to send a representative along? The Council would also appreciate it if they could be notified when the application will go before the Planning Committee.

Thanking you in anticipation of your consideration of these objections.

Kind Regards

Carolyn Cross  
Clerk to Wrightington Parish Council