

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES TO SUPPORT THE APRIL 2024 AGENDA:

Correspondence c)

Mossy Lea Ward:

1 x free standing - on the grass verge near the entrance to Mossy Lea Playing Fields. - Currently a red dog bin so we can replace that with a litter bin.

1 x free standing near the Bus Stop/Shelter on Mossy Lea Road, opposite the BP Garage. - We can place one at the side of the bus stop.

Appley Bridge Ward:

1 x free standing in the vicinity of Appley Bridge Village Hall, Appley Lane North - We can only place one in the car park as no room on the paths.

1 x free standing in the vicinity of the Scout Hut, Appley Lane North - We can place one by the bus stop

1 x free standing on Skull House Lane, near the junction with Appley Lane North - One opposite there but on a damaged post so we will replace it to a free standing one

1 x free standing near The Boathouse, Mill Lane - We will replace the red dog bin on the tow path

Correspondence item d)

“The contractor was only paid for the 1 cut as that is all they completed. Unfortunately we are stuck with the same contractor again for this year. We did try to direct award with another contractor but financially it was not viable.

I have met with the current contractors last week ahead of this year’s schedules and have given them clear instructions that last year’s work (or lack of it) was totally unacceptable. My Area Managers will be micro-managing them this year to ensure the work is being completed and that standards are acceptable.

I am currently waiting for this year’s schedule that will be shared with you. I will ask them if they can start the verge maintenance in your ward.”

Correspondence item f)

“Thanks for getting in touch about bus services from Appley Bridge to Wigan.

We’ve now taken the first steps towards taking control of local bus services from last September. Bus services in Wigan were included in the first phase which means all buses in the Wigan area including the 635 service are now running as new Bee Network services.

Currently, the service 635 runs at a frequency of three buses an hour which is a reduction from its pre-pandemic frequency of 12 minutes.

The service 635 extends in the evening to serve Wrightington Hospital. This is supplemented by a train service which runs twice an hour from Southport to Manchester via Wigan.

At first, we’re not making any changes to services or introducing new ones, instead, our priority is stabilising the network. This is particularly important as we continue to bring buses under local control and deliver the whole of the Bee Network. Over time, as the network stabilises and as we build up detailed customer data, we can start to look at making improvements to our bus services by using detailed passenger journey information to plan the network where there’s demand.

I’ve passed on your suggestion on to Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) about revising the 635 route and asked them to consider this when they look at reviewing the bus network in Wigan.

In the meantime, if you need any journey planning advice, the Bee Network Customer team will be happy to help. They can be contacted on 0161 244 1000 or by emailing hello@beenetwork.com. Thanks again for taking the time to share your feed”

Agenda Item - West Quarry

Response submitted by the Parish Council to the appeal by Northern Diver:

“Wrightington Parish Council support the enforcement notice served by West Lancashire Borough Council on Mr Ian McLeod, for unauthorised engineering operations on land at West Quarry, Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge, and request that the appeal is dismissed for the following reasons:

The Appellant has undertaken significant work on the site without first approaching the relevant regulatory bodies such as West Lancashire Borough Council, Lancashire County Council and the

Environment Agency, for advice on how to proceed. As a result, no permission for the work which has been undertaken has been sought, or granted, from any of the aforementioned bodies, and no regard has been given to the site specific safety requirements of development on a landfill site, and the impact this will have on the amenity, health, and safety, of residents living in the vicinity of the site..

Given that the site is a former landfill site, which remains an active landfill site, covered by an Environment Agency Waste Management Permit, responsibility for which remains with the original grantee of the permit and not the current owners of the land, the Parish Council believe that any damage to, or removal of, any infrastructure originally installed to protect the village of Appley Bridge and it's residents from the potential threats of methane gas, carbon dioxide and leachate leaks, should be repaired or reinstated as a required and as a matter of urgency. This would reduce the risk of explosion, and the risk to health and safety, and would enhance the protection of the residents of Appley Bridge.

The appellant's reasons for appeal against Ground C do not in-fact support or evidence reinstatement of the land. Instead the actions of the appellant show a total disregard for the comprehensive landscape plan put in place following the completion of the landfill activities at this site. The landscaping plan included tree and hedge planting around the perimeter of the site, including the areas adjacent to Appley Lane North, seeded grassland areas, the planting of trees to create a protection buffer for those homeowners whose gardens back onto, or look over the site. The appellant has removed soils which were brought in to infill areas of settlement and to create an improved restoration profile i.e.: The Cap. The Cap is a mound/dome profile created as a requirement of the final remediation permission, to create and manage surface water run-off, in order to minimise water ingress into the contained waste mass beneath. If the water run-off is not managed properly this can cause damage to the environment by means of pollution to water courses, adjacent land, and residents' gardens, which conflicts with the Environment Agency waste permit conditions. The contouring of the land prior to the excavation works which have taken place was of paramount importance, created quite deliberately to prevent contamination and to improve safety for those living close to the landfill site.

As the landfill site is still active, quarterly monitoring data should still be submitted to the Environment Agency in accordance with the terms of the waste permit for safety reasons. The ground-works undertaken on the site by the appellant have resulted in the damage or loss of monitoring infrastructure and regulatory controls of the landfill site, not only compromising any future monitoring at the site but also the health, and safety, of residents' living in Appley Bridge. In fact, no data has been provided to ensure the health and safety of the residents since March 2022. In addition to this, the monitoring equipment was installed to serve both West Quarry and Parbold Hill Quarry, therefore, removal or damage to said infrastructure will also impact on the Parbold landfill site.

With regard to the creation of the new entrance to the site the appellant was aware, from correspondence with Lancashire County Council in 2021, that planning permission was required for the works involved in creating a new entrance to the site. Furthermore, the hardstanding created by the appellant from the new access and the use of excavated soil to create the embankment, was stopped by West Lancashire Borough Council, as this was also unauthorised development. There appears to be no evidence to support the appellant's claim that the levelling works, and resultant embankment, were undertaken in consultation with the Environment Agency, or with the appropriate permission or consent of the other relevant statutory bodies.

In response to the appellants Ground F, the Parish Council would state that the domed contour of the site i.e.: the capping off of the site, installed in compliance with the Environment Agency permit conditions, for the protection of the residents of Appley Bridge and beyond, to prevent any contamination to local water courses, adjacent land and gardens, and to assist in the regeneration of the landfill site to agricultural land, was in fact essential for health and safety reasons.

The buffer of planted trees and hedges around the perimeter of the site was not just for screening but was installed in accordance with planning conditions and was designed to help restore the landfill site to nature and to improve the environment and amenity of the land for those living in the vicinity of the landfill site. The felling licence obtained, related to a strip of hedges and trees along the boundary with Appley Lane North. Felling at the site was far more extensive than the licence permitted and the licence required replanting to be undertaken to compensate for the loss of vegetation. If a replanting scheme is required by the terms of the licence then this should be pursued.

The appellant's appeal under Ground B does not represent a true picture of activity at the site. As already stated the site had a domed profile for specific reasons, to allow safe and structured management of

water run-off, to cap off the contained waste mass brought onto the site as landfill, and to cover monitoring infrastructure installed to ensure the safety of those living adjacent to the landfill site and in Appley Bridge. The levelling and re-grading of the site, uncovering waste in places, and damaging monitoring equipment in others, now poses a significant health and safety risk to the residents of Appley Bridge. Residents, and the Parish Council, are concerned for their safety should an explosion occur or a leak of potentially poisonous substances, which have not been monitored properly since 2022, and continue to be unmonitored due to the damage caused by the unauthorised ground work at this site. In addition to this there are serious concerns in relation to the pollution and contamination of gardens and water courses as a result of the removal of the domed profile of the land, which was put in place to actively reduce the possibility of contamination. It is understood that legal action has been taken by the Environment Agency as a result of this, and that they are also conducting random surface gas monitoring of the re-contoured landfill surface to ensure the residents' safety.

For health and safety reasons, Wrightington Parish Council would request that the appeal is dismissed and that all necessary steps are taken by the appellant to ensure that the site is restored, along with all the necessary monitoring infrastructure, to guarantee the safety of the residents and their families in Appley Bridge.”
