

Attention Karl Battersby
Director of Economy and Regeneration
Wigan Council
Town Hall
Library St
Wigan
WN11N

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C/C - Donna Hall Chief Executive Wigan Council. Andy Burnham MP. Greater Manchester Integrated Support Team. Cllrs James Grundy, Ed Houlton, Kath Houlton.

Greater Manchester Spatial Framework

During the years 2012 to 2013 we spent many hours sitting in meetings with Mr Ward, a government inspector, discussing Wigan council's core strategy.

After hearing evidence from Andy Burnham MP – Cllr James Grundy – myself and several others he agreed with our argument that this area could not possibly cope with having 3000 extra houses, as the infrastructure was inadequate and no plans were in place to improve it.

So what's changed since then? The answer is nothing. The schools are almost full, public transport is the same, the traffic and pollution is getting worse.

So what makes your planners think they can take even more land in this area both for industry and housing as presented in the Gr Manchester Spatial Framework?

We received the following information from TFGM in 2013:

The junction with Newton Rd and the A580 is taking 50,500 movements a day

Church Lane /A580 41500 - Golborne Island 46,700 movements per day

All junctions on the A580 are running between 150% and 170% saturation at peak times. During the rest of the day they are running between 60% and 90%.

Lane Head is reported to be the second busiest junction in GT Manchester.

Air pollution between Winwick Lane and all Lane Head junctions must be horrendous with standing traffic throughout the day

To build any further houses on the east side of the A580 is like building within a walled city. There are only four ways out and they are all congested. We need urgent plans putting in place for the completion of Atherleigh Way to link direct with the M6.

The population of Wigan has been quite stable up to the last census in 2011.

Census figures for Wigan as follows

1971 – 302,929 1981 – 307,721 1991 – 310,866 2001 – 301,422 2011 – 317,800

This shows that the population has only risen by 6934 since 1991. So one would have to ask why all this building is needed. We are about to leave the EU and Government wants to control immigration. In fact a minister is now calling for the release of greenbelt to be stopped so it can be accessed after we leave the EU.

Not only do we have Wigan Council planning to destroy our area, St Helens Council are looking to remove acres of land from the greenbelt on our borders with the intention of building massive warehousing.

Just how you think all the traffic created from these developments can be absorbed is beyond us. We can't move now.

This isn't planning, its madness. You are having no thought for the people you are supposed to represent. It seems that both central government and local government have stopped listening to the people, that's why Brexit was a shock to David Cameron's government.

Last month I attended several meetings in the Newton and Leigh areas. At the Leigh meeting people were in attendance from Hindley, Tyldesley, Atherton, Pennington and Bryn. At Newton attendees were from Winwick, Newton, Earlstown, Haydock and Lowton.

I can tell you that these people are angry and want these plans reviewed. They are not acceptable and residents' anger will only grow if you continue to implement them.

Ed Thwaite

Chairman