

Attention David Molyneux
Deputy Leader Wigan Council
Town Hall
Library St
Wigan
WN11N

18/01/2017

C.C Donna Hall Chief Executive - Andy Burnham MP- Karl Battersby director economy and regeneration, and local councillors.

Sir

We write to you regarding your comments in the Wigan Press on the 6th January 2017 presented below.

Statement

Wigan Council deputy leader David Molyneux said: “The spatial framework is a major opportunity for the borough. It will set out where we can locate sought-after employment land up to 2035 that will deliver thousands of jobs as well as much-needed homes, particularly for the younger generation. Around two thirds of new homes will be needed because of a big increase in households aged 65 and over. People are living longer and elderly people are choosing to live independently in their own homes for longer. That is why we must take the decisions to provide opportunities for the next generation, for our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They deserve to have good employment opportunities and the chance to buy their own home right here in the borough.

“I completely understand residents are concerned about the impact on roads. That is why we say that this growth can only come if significant investment in our transport infrastructure is made and the council is committed to making this happen.

What concerns us is that this seems to be a stock answer whenever anyone criticizes the Wigan council way of thinking?

Over the past 5 years we have asked for infrastructure improvements. For example extending Atherleigh Way to the motorway as was originally intended when it was first conceived. Also the reopening of Kenyon Junction Station, we could then be in Manchester within 20 minutes leaving our cars at home.

The council have be talking about opening a station at Golborne for over 10 years and nothing's happened.

Our ideas fall on deaf ears, and you make no movements on Golborne.

Our roads are the same as they were 20 years ago, so we have total congestion at peak times.

50,000 vehicles a day pass through Lane Head junction on the A580. At peak times all junctions are running at 150% to 170% saturation, even at normal times it is 60% to 90% saturation.

On Newton road cars can be queuing as far back as Lowton High School during the morning rush. This is standing traffic causing pollution on a length of road where school children walk to attend three of our schools.

I dread to think what the pollution is at Lane Head with over 4 hours each day of standing traffic. We should have it checked.

Three years ago the Government inspector rejected Wigan council's wishes to build 2500 houses in the Lowton area. He agreed with our MP, our councillors, and us, that the infrastructure was incapable of supporting them.

You cannot keep pouring tea into a full cup; it becomes incapable of supporting it. That is what this area is a full cup.

You have stated that growth can only come if significant investment in our transport and infrastructure is made, and the council is committed to making this happen.

So before you ask us to accept any further plans for this area would you spell out exactly what significant improvements you intend to make to our infrastructure and when.

We look forward to your reply.

Ed Thwaite

Chairman