

(Thursday Jan 28th 2010)

Dear Mr. Owen

I refer to your e-mail dated the 22nd of Jan in which you state your belief that parents will allow their children to cycle or walk distances over 2.5 miles from the Golborne area to the proposed new school at Lowton in order to fulfil the explicit requirements set out in the Transport Report. I would contend that this is a wholly unrealistic assumption which some may think falls marginally short of fantasy.

I would challenge your suggestion that traffic using other routes through the adjacent residential estate would in some way give a 'robust approach' to the findings of the Traffic Report. The truth is that it would merely spread a problem which no amount of traffic calming measures would abate. Routing the volume of traffic which would result from a school complex of this size through the heart of a residential estate would constitute an act of serious misjudgement with potentially disastrous consequences.

I see not a vestige of evidence to support your claim that *'it is impossible to accommodate a suitable junction at the bridge on Newton Road'*. One must conclude that your lack of enthusiasm for this option is influenced by consideration of the capital cost it would incur.

Despite the caveat contained within the Transport Report and the protestations of residents whose lives it would profoundly affect, it is evident from the tenor of your e-mail and the conspicuous absence of conciliation that you are adamant in your defence of this route of access. It would appear that you are consciously considering inflicting disruption and the risk to safety on residents within your own borough, the very people who look to you as a public servant to exercise sound judgement and sensitivity, in order to avoid the cost of a dedicated access road which would amount to a mere pittance compared with the overall cost of a project of this magnitude.

Should this policy be implemented, the onus of responsibility for its consequences would rest squarely with the Council and with those individuals within the Council who are its principal proponents.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. I Gillette
(On behalf of Hesketh Meadow Residents Group)

Reply pending