

STOP Parkside strategic road freight interchange IN ITS TRACKS



CALL TO ACTION GREEN BELT DESTRUCTION IMMINENT

A PLEA TO RESIDENTS OF WINWICK, NEWTON, BURTONWOOD, EARLESTOWN, GOLBORNE, CROFT AND LOWTON.

The threat of large scale development is with us again. This time we could see the Green Belt status of the Parkside site removed. This would leave the door wide open for a whole range of uses for this site and the loss forever of a huge amount of Green Belt land. Ask yourself, **is this what you want for the future of our area?**

WHY IS THIS HAPPENING

St Helens Council have previously been told by the Government Planning Inspector that Parkside could only be used for the development of a Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (SRFI) if the case was proven. However in 2010 the previous owners of the site Astral /Prologis withdrew their application for a SRFI. The site was then bought by the St Helens council, which prompted them to rethink their 2012 Local Plan which stated 37 hectares of land for development were needed by 2023. The Council have decided to develop a new Local Plan, which indicates that 214 hectares of new land will be required by 2037 - a massive 578% increase in 3 years! How could they have got it so wrong? We believe they have extended the period of the plan by 10 years to 2033 to simply make the number a lot bigger and justify their case for the release of Green Belt land. We would ask the question, have all other options been considered? Have all Brown Field sites be exhausted?

WHY SHOULD RESIDENTS BE CONCERNED

PAG feels that our local area has played its part in giving land to development in the past. Where we live is at the heart of the North West motorway and rail networks. This means that our local environment lacks the bio diversity that other parts of the North West take for granted. PAG is asking the questions: **How much more can one area take? Also, do we want this big decision to be influenced by just a small group of people? It's right that you have your say!**

AN OBSESSION WITH LOGISTICS

When it comes to the use of this site, it always seems to be for one purpose - FREIGHT. Is this because there is a railway line next to the site. PAG doesn't think so. The bulk of freight, over 94% would go to and from the site by Road. Can you imagine this, a massive freight facility, possibly the largest in Europe in the middle of our district bringing all of those vehicle movements and congestion on a daily basis?

BIG CONCERNS ABOUT AIR QUALITY

In the past air quality has been an issue around Newton and the M6 with two AQMA's (air quality management areas) being set up. With a potential large increase in freight traffic this could again become a concern. The news recently has highlighted the associated health issues linked with traffic pollution. Not something we would want inflicting on our children and grandchildren any time soon!

WHAT ABOUT OUR WILDLIFE

Just take the time for one moment to think about where you live. Think about the space that surrounds you and how much of it is truly wild and green. Not farmland, not parkland but space where birds and other wildlife can thrive without being disturbed by human activity. Now ask yourself: Do we need more or less Green Belt land?

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT ABOUT PARKSIDE ACTION GROUP.

We want people to know what motivates us. Concerns about **Loss of Green Belt, Massive Increase of Freight Traffic** and the **Air That We Breathe**.

PAG is made up of local people from all over the local area. In fact the PAG committee has 3 members from Newton, 2 from Golborne and 1 from Lowton. We welcome members from the Warrington, St Helens and Wigan boroughs. We are NOT just made up of people who live by the Parkside site. The term NIMBY [not in my back yard] does not apply.

PAG shares the concerns over employment for local people and we would not want to stand in the way of sustainable job creation. We think previous claims about the amount of jobs a SRFI would bring were grossly exaggerated. PAG would not oppose the sensitive development of the original foot print of the Parkside Colliery site. We would also like to see the sites Green Belt enhanced. We would like to see more attempts by councillors to consult with the local community and we would also like to see all boroughs work in greater collaboration in the area of planning.

Is this an unreasonable request?

WHAT WE WANT YOU TO DO

Our Green Belt is too important to our area to put at risk. Once it's gone it's gone forever.

PAG would be grateful if you could take the time to complete the attached form. Don't worry if you can't answer all or most of the questions, but we would like you to try to answer the following questions.

Question 2 & 12 – These questions relate to the council adding 10 years to their new Local Plan. Do you feel that this makes it easier to justify taking land out of Green Belt? Is it fair to snatch a huge piece of land now based on a 20 year dubious forecast?

Question 14 - This question asks if you feel there is a need to take land out of Green Belt for reasons of employment and housing.

A BIG THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ AND FILL IN THIS FORM.

YOUR VIEWS ARE IMPORTANT.

For more information and to keep up to date please visit

parksideactiongroup.org.uk

Or email

help@parksideactiongroup.org.uk



**St. Helens
Council**

St. Helens Local Plan Scoping Consultation

January 20th - March 2nd 2016

Response Form

By completing this Response Form, you are writing to make comments on the proposed Scope of the new St. Helens Local Plan. If you wish submit information as part of the 2016 Call for Sites or representations on the Bold Forest Park AAP Publication Draft, there are separate forms available for these that must be completed separately.

For help in completing this form, please contact a member of the Development Plans team by telephone on 01744 676190 or email planningpolicy@sthelens.gov.uk.

Your contact details

Please provide your contact details and those of your agent (if applicable). Where provided, we will use your Agent's details as our primary contact. Please be aware that anonymous forms cannot be included and that in order for you to submit your form you must include your details below.

	Your details	Your agent's details
Title		
Name		
Position		
Organisation		
Address		
Town		
County		
Postcode		
Telephone		
Email address		

Would you like to be updated of future stages of the Local Plan Process? Please tick one below.
We will update you when there are consultations on the Local Plan document, submission of the Plan for Examination, the issuing of recommendations by the Inspector and the adoption of the Plan by the Council. The Planning Policy website will also have more regular updates. We prefer to send any updates by email as this is faster, cheaper, and more environmentally friendly and stays with you if you move home.

Yes, by email Yes, by post (I do not have an email address) No

Consultation Questions Please respond to one or more questions below, providing the question number e.g. Q1 and the response next to it. You do not need to answer all of the questions. If you do not answer a question it is assumed you do not wish to comment on that particular question.

Q1. Do you think that this process is appropriate e.g. it meets the requirements of the Planning Acts and Regulations? Please indicate YES or NO and explain why.

Q2. Do you think that the end date of the Local Plan should be 2033? If not please explain why and suggest an alternative end date Please indicate YES or NO and explain why.

Q3. Do you think there are any other particular issues, plans or strategies that need to be taken into account, and what evidence exists to support this? Please indicate YES or NO and explain why.

Q4. Do you think that the Key Issues for the Local Plan should be different? If so, please explain why you think this and in what way should they be changed? Please be as specific as possible regarding the changes. Please indicate YES or NO and explain why.

Q5. Are there any other evidence base documents that need to be prepared for, or taken into account by, the Local Plan? Please indicate YES or NO and explain why.

Q6. Should the Spatial Vision for the new Local Plan be similar or different to the Core Strategy Spatial Vision? If you think it should be different, why do you think this and in what way should it be changed? Please be as specific as possible regarding the changes required. Please indicate YES or NO and explain why.

Q7. Should the Strategic Aims and Objectives for the new Local Plan be similar or different to those in the Core Strategy? If you think they should be different, why do you think this and in what way should they be changed? Please be as specific as possible regarding the changes required. Please indicate YES or NO and explain why.

Q8. Do you think that there are policies that should not be included and / or other new policies that should be included? If so, why do you think this and what should the policy say? Please indicate YES or NO and explain why.

Q9. Do you think there are particular sites or types of site which require specific policies to guide development / conservation, and if so, what are they, what policy guidance do they require and why do you think this? *Please indicate YES or NO and explain why.*

Q10. What level of housing growth do you think St. Helens should plan for? Does the objectively assessed need of 451 homes per year seem appropriate for St. Helens? *Please indicate YES or NO and explain why.*

Q11. Do you think the proposed process from moving from objectively assessed needs to a housing target is robust and appropriate? Should any other factors be considered when assessing an appropriate housing target? *Please indicate YES or NO and explain why.*

Q.12 What level of economic growth do you think St. Helens should plan for? Does the objectively assessed need of 178.5ha up to 2033 seem appropriate for St. Helens? *Please indicate YES or NO and explain why.*

Q.13 Do you think the proposed process from moving from objectively assessed needs to an employment land requirement is robust and appropriate? Should any other factors be considered when assessing an appropriate employment land requirement? *Please indicate YES or NO and explain why.*

Q14. Do you think that Green Belt release is required to meet housing and employment land needs? Why? If not, what alternative(s) would you suggest and why? *Please indicate YES or NO and explain why.*

Q15. How can the Council encourage the development of brownfield land to meet housing and employment needs? *Please indicate YES or NO and explain why.*

Q16. Do you agree with the density and net developable area figure used for calculating possible land take for safeguarded housing land in the Green Belt? Why? If not, what would you suggest and why? *Please indicate YES or NO and explain why.*

Q17. Do you agree with providing for a five year safeguarded land supply for housing and employment? Why? If not, what would you suggest and why. *Please indicate YES or NO and explain why.*

Q18. Are there any other forms of development that need to be accommodated in the Local Plan? *Please indicate YES or NO and explain why.*

Q19. Do you think the draft SA Scoping Report identifies the key local sustainability issues within St. Helens? Are there any additional issues that the Scoping Report should cover? Is there any other evidence base that could inform the Scoping Report? *Please indicate YES or NO and explain why.*

Q20. Do you have any comments to make on the draft sustainability framework presented in the draft Scoping Report? *Please indicate YES or NO and explain why.*

Q21. Do you have any other comments to make regarding the scope of the SA and the proposed approach to appraise the Local Plan? *Please indicate YES or NO and explain why.*

Enter your comments below (*Please tell us anything else of relevance, if not already covered above. Please continue on a separate sheet, if necessary.*)

Question Number	Comments

Please return this form and accompanying sheets/maps, etc. by **12:00 (noon) on Wednesday 2nd March 2016** by email or by freepost to ensure your comments are fully considered in the next stages of the Local Plan.

Return by email to:

planningpolicy@sthelens.gov.uk

Return by freepost (no stamp required) to:

St.Helens Council
Freepost RLYY-RYXG-HYHS
Chief Executive's Department, Development Plans, Town Hall,
Victoria Square, St.Helens, WA10 1HP

What happens next?

The Council will consider all the comments made throughout the public consultation process and take them into account when preparing the St Helens Local Plan.

Data Protection Statement

The personal information provided on this form (address, contact details, signature) will be processed in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998. It will be treated as confidential and used only to progress the St Helens Local Plan to adoption. However, your name and representation will be made publicly available and cannot be treated as confidential.