

**APPEAL REFERENCE : APP/D2320/W/22/3295556**

**LAND ADJACENT TO HMP GARTH & HMP WYMOTT, LEYLAND, LANCASHIRE**

I am Cllr. Mary Green from SRBC. I would like to declare a personal interest, as I am in receipt of a pension, as a former employee of the MOJ and also I am a resident of the neighbouring ward.

I have been a Cllr. for 16 years , of which 12 years has been in this ward. I am also a member of the SRBC Planning Committee for 16 years.

I attended the consultations for background information. I am well aware that Garth and Wymott prisons hold 850 & 1200 prisoners respectively. Therefore with 1700 more prisoners planned, that will practically double the number. Since the prisons have been built in 1979 and 1988 there have been NO improvements to the local area.

Although the local residents have embraced the change of their environment, from rural to having an urban feel. They have definitely suffered from excessive speeding traffic down Ulnes Walton Lane, Moss Side and into Leyland, at all times of the day, 7 days a week as the staff work different shift

patterns. This does not include deliveries, visitors cars or taxis and prisoner movements.

## **Committee**

This application went before SRBC Planning Committee for consultation and after due consideration, it was **unanimously refused** for the same reasons as Chorley Planning Committee refused it. Namely, Inappropriate development in the green belt, unacceptable impact on highway safety, inadequate highway infrastructure and harmful impact on the amenity of the residents in the locality. SRBC also raised other points which they felt were necessary to address if this development did eventually proceed.

During the construction phase there would be inconvenience with dust, mud and damage to the existing road surfaces. Although there will be houses available, locally being built as we speak, there is a lack of doctors and school places for the incoming staff and their families. Curiously it is strange that this prison is not being built nearer to the large cities in the North West where predominantly the prisoners will come from. This development is being proposed in a rural area where residents were expecting to live peacefully. Although this development will affect some Chorley residents, it will also affect

the residents of Ulnes Walton and Moss Side. Ulnes Walton Lane is narrow, winding, has no pavements, no lighting and it will also cause a massive increase in traffic all around this area resulting in gridlocks in the Dunkirk and Slater Lane areas.

As suggested by the Planning Committee at SRBC, the infrastructure needs constructing prior to the start of the development. The pavements need upgrading or creating. The roads need surface treatment and the carriageway needs to be narrowed in order to slow the traffic. All these need implementing as traffic controlling measures. SRBC also stated that the junctions in the local area all need improving. It was agreed that there should be contributions to the dualling of the B5253 with also a bus service appropriate to the needs of this scale of development put into this area.

Finally, an amount of funding to assist with the re-opening of Midge Hall station was suggested to enable greater accessibility to the prison via rail links. Besides benefitting the visitors, it would assist staff to get to work without the necessity to drive, so easing the traffic problems. In conclusion, the MOJ need to reduce the impact on the amenity of the local residents if this development was to be allowed and they merit this consideration.