

Local Residents letter of concern to Lancashire Evening Post from the mid 1990's



LETTERS

Prison's access roads have become a danger

I HOPE to redress the balance after reading two articles which have appeared recently in the Evening Post.

The articles to which I refer covered the supposed encouragement which the Lancashire County Council's surveyors department is giving to a heavy traffic survey in rural areas and the article regarding the Garth and Wymott prisons in Ulles Walton.

Ulles Walton Lane, in which I live, is a narrow, winding country lane in a generally poor state of repair. My neighbours have regaled me with tales of, not too many years ago, their cattle grazing undisturbed along the edge of the lane. In fact this picture conjures up a vision of an archetypal rural idyll.

Unfortunately nothing could

be further from the truth today. In reality it is now quite dangerous merely to walk along the lane for fear of being hit by speeding vehicles which include an inordinate number of the heaviest class of vehicles to be found on our roads.

Having witnessed three of these vehicles leave the road recently, I think we may well be at risk while we sit having breakfast.

You will have guessed by now, I am sure, what is responsible in great part for the drastic change in this rural idyll, and that is the fact that the lane is the one and only access to both the Wymott and Garth Prisons.

For over two years I have been trying to convince the Lancashire County Council survey-

ors department to impose an access-only weight restriction on the lane which, by no means curing the problem, would at least alleviate it by reducing the heavy traffic using the lane as a short cut.

This has been to no avail and meanwhile the heavy vehicles continue to wreck the road, cause a nuisance, and pose a very real threat to the safety of the residents.

Myself and other residents also believe that the Home Office should have provided independent access to a main road for these two large prisons but as if to add insult to injury they have the affrontery to try and lob us off with statistics to the effect that these prisons will not really generate much traffic.

But let me assure the Home

Office that despite the fact that we are more Northerners, we can count, and we do realise that facilities of this size do not buy their toilet rolls in packs of two.

I am sure you will understand my anger when I read of the wonderful facilities available in these prisons while at the same time I am told that despite requests from my local authority the Home Office do not feel at all obligated even to contribute to the upkeep of what has now become an access road to two of the largest prison facilities in the country.

There was a time when the opinions of law-abiding ratepayers were held in some regard, but not, it would seem, any longer. — Alan N Green, Ulles Walton Lane, Ulles Walton, Leyland.

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