



HM Prison &
Probation Service

James Smith
Programme Director: New Prisons

11 March 2024

Dear Resident,

Update on works at HMPs Garth and Wymott

I am writing to provide you with an update on the various projects at HMPs Garth and Wymott, and what you might see on or around the site over the coming months.

Proposed new prison

As you may already be aware, on 19 January 2023 the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) issued a 'minded to grant' decision subject to the provision of further evidence on highways safety. Following submissions from each of the appeal parties, DLUHC's Secretary of State decided on 6 April 2023 to reopen the planning inquiry to allow the new evidence to be tested.

It was expected that the appeal inquiry would re-open on 19 September 2023. However, due to the Planning Inspector becoming unavailable, the appeal inquiry is now expected to re-open on 25 March 2024. The timing of the planning decision would then be a matter for DLUHC once they receive the Inspector's report.

At the end of February 2024, the Ministry of Justice submitted additional evidence to the Planning Inspector, including a proposal which would improve road safety at the junction between Ulmes Walton Road and Southport Road/A581 by providing a mini roundabout. We have exchanged contracts on the additional land that would be required to make these changes and the design has the support of the Local Highways Authority.

Should the prison ultimately receive planning consent, there are certain works and surveys (not requiring planning permission) that are beneficial to carry out over the coming months and so you may notice some activity on and around site. Over the Summer period there may be a requirement to attend site with specialist contractors to undertake essential ecology inspections. There may be the need to undertake ecology maintenance works but these will be kept to a minimum to avoid causing unnecessary disruption.

For ease, I have enclosed a copy of the Council's notice which has been displayed locally. This includes details of how to comment on the proposal and participate in the Inquiry.

Houseblock refurbishment

Refurbishments and essential maintenance of two houseblocks at HMP Wymott are required to ensure the cells are fit for purpose. These works will require temporary units to be installed

on the south-east corner of the site, which will be used to house prisoners. A Certificate of Lawful Development for the temporary units and the planning application for the internal fence line has been approved by the Local Planning Authority and work to install the temporary units is expected to ramp up by March. There will be a temporary works access on the road to the existing prisons, off Moss Lane.

I will provide a further update in due course, however this may not be until a planning decision has been issued for the proposed new prison. Should you have any questions you can contact my team via psdenquiries@justice.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Smith', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

James Smith
Programme Director: New Prisons

PUBLIC INQUIRY TO BE REOPENED TO BE HELD AS A VIRTUAL EVENT

on 25 March 2024 at 10:00am

REASON FOR INQUIRY

Appeal by Ministry of Justice

Relating to the application to Chorley Borough Council

for Hybrid planning application seeking: Outline planning permission (with all matters reserved except for means of access, parking and landscaping) for a new prison (up to 74,531.71 sqm GEA) (Class C2A) within a secure perimeter fence following demolition of existing buildings and structures and together with associated engineering works; Outline planning permission for a replacement boiler house (with all matters reserved except for access); and Full planning permission for a replacement bowling green and club house (Class F2(c))

At Land adjacent to HMP Garth and HMP Wymott, Leyland

In a letter dated 6 April 2023, the Secretary of State confirmed that the remit of the reopened inquiry will be to consider such evidence on highway safety matters identified in his 19 January 2023 letter as the parties shall put forward.

An Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State will hold an Inquiry opening on the date shown above. The Inquiry will be held as a virtual event run by the Inspector in the normal way, but with the parties invited to join via Microsoft Teams.

Documents relating to the appeal can be viewed at the Council offices by prior arrangement or on the Council website application ref: **21/01028/OUTMAJ**. A dedicated webpage for the Inquiry has also been set up: <https://chorley.gov.uk/article/2612/Planning-appeals-HM-Prison-Wymott> where there will be a link to the virtual event and where the main documents that will be referred to can be viewed.

Members of the public may attend the Inquiry and, at the Inspector's discretion, express their views.

If you wish to participate in the Inquiry please contact the Local Planning Authority (email: dcon@chorley.gov.uk or telephone: 01257 515151) for details of how to do so.

Where applicable, you can use the internet to see information and to check the progress of cases through GOV.UK. The address of the search page is - <https://www.gov.uk/appeal-planning-inspectorate>

Planning Inspectorate Reference: APP/D2320/W/22/3295556

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