



# 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](http://parksideactiongroup.org.uk)**

**Or email**

**[help@parksideactiongroup.org.uk](mailto:help@parksideactiongroup.org.uk)**