

Lewis, Ian (Councillor)

From: Lewis, Ian (Councillor)
Sent: 07 March 2024 21:48
To: Satoor, Paul
Cc: Rennie, Lesley A. (Councillor); Armstrong, David; Gooding, Jason; Fox, Simon J.; Ball, David S.; Caley, Deborah J.; Kenny, Dawn L.
Subject: West Wallasey

Dear Paul

Thank you, and your chief officers, for meeting with Lesley and I earlier today.

Particular thanks also to Dawn and Debbie for arranging a date when we could all meet at such short notice, following my previous email.

The most frequent question from residents is 'when?' and, from the meeting, we now understand the former gas works site will be ready for use by this company by the end of March, aiming for parts to be occupied sooner. However, it is very disappointing (but perhaps not surprising) that the company chose not to pursue your offer for use of the (mostly vacant) multi-storey car park in Birkenhead to enable relocation now.

While we know the Authority is keen to support employers in the Borough (primarily through the work of the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee), this cannot be at the expense of the quality of life of residents or by turning a 'blind eye' to activities which cause such disruption to the wider community.

As mentioned, we believe the scale of this company's activities, and land use, within the Wallasey area, requires a clear, robust and consistent Authority-wide response. There is understandable cynicism as to whether the Authority will ever deal with this, due to the failure to tackle the issues around the company's Leasowe Road site for 25+ years. The patience of our residents, and us, has now snapped.

As a first step, we believe that this company has the clear and unambiguous confirmation that once the leases expire on the various sites which are designated for medium term regeneration (e.g. Dock Road and former gas works, Seacombe), that the Authority has NO other land available and we will NOT jeopardise the Local Plan at the behest of any single company.

While the company appears immune to public opinion, I would ask that the Authority's Communications Department considers an update to the media on this aspect.

I've summarised below the actions being taken/to be taken – please let me know if I have misunderstood the points we discussed.

- Following our earlier request, officers in Highways are now working on an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order to prohibit ALL overnight parking at Kings Parade and Coastal Drive, except for those areas where camper van paid parking is offered. This will not be subject to delays by consultation or referral to committee. It will be for a maximum of 18 months (as per the Road Traffic Acts), but could be made permanent thereafter, and before the expiry of the two year lease at the former gas works
- The 'missing' signs advising of the current TRO on the 'Sandcliffe Road' stretch between Coastal Drive and Kings Parade (as per the map given to Simon) will be replaced ASAP and ideally before the Easter break to deal with the current long-term camper van parking
- In light of the £531,318 authority spend with this company in 2021/22-2023/24 (as advised by the Director of Finance, 22 February), you will review whether further services are procured and whether a stop can be applied, and other Wirral companies used instead. It is frankly ludicrous that a company whose actions have

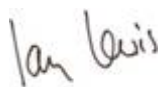
generated the need for the actions outlined today (and over many years) is, at the same time, benefitting from taxpayer spend

- The Director of Neighbourhoods will be responsible for overseeing ALL matters relating to this company and the authority, to avoid decisions being taken in isolation by relevant departments
- The authority will examine the options/costs for adopting the currently unadopted section of Cross Lane that, due to WW vehicles, is preventing access by the public to local authority and Forestry England land, followed by relevant TRO/ETROs
- Recently 'removed' safety bollards on Leasowe Road will be replaced and a guardrail installed (as promised previously) on the central reservation to prevent further traffic offences, as previously witnessed and evidenced
- While no breaches of conditions from previous planning applications for their sites have been identified by the Planning Department, Lesley and I will advise further within the next seven days
- A copy of the lease for the former gas works site will be provided, for us to share with residents
- Enforcement of the current and planned Traffic Regulation Orders at all sites will be assessed for further resource and activity

In view of our experience of this company, we would ask that we meet again in two weeks to review the above and any further points relevant to resolving this situation, not least implementation dates for the actions listed above.

Finally, while these issues Lesley and I are contacted about are predominantly confined to Wallasey Ward, we will also share this email with the Leader of the Council, Cllr. Paul Stuart, and the Leader of our Group, Cllr. Jeff Green.

Best wishes



Ian Lewis
Local Conservative Councillor | Wallasey Ward

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