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Application number LCC/2019/0028 Proposed Further Landfilling at Parbold Hill

This Parish Council wishes to record that the recent changes to this application in no way negates our objection repeated below.

Highway problems are in our opinion made worse by the new access position which reduces visibility of HGV leaving and entering the proposed site. Many motorists travel at high speeds over this hill as confirmed by an accident on October 14 2019 when the hill, A5209, was closed due to a very serious accident involving a HGV.

<https://www.wigantoday.net/news/traffic-and-travel/man-taken-to-hospital-after-collision-with-lorry-on-parbold-hill-1-10049058>

This Parish Council objected to the proposed landfilling development at Parbold Hill for the following reasons:

1. Parbold Hill is important in the landscape of the whole of West Lancashire
2. Its panoramic views attract significant numbers of visitors to the location itself and to the surrounding areas of West Lancashire
3. The proposed new access and parking arrangements still mean that landfilling operations would dominate the area and damage the visitor economy for much longer than the operating period of the site
4. This scarring of the Green Belt and disruption of people's day to day activities would repeat the earlier problems created by the household waste landfill operations on the same site

5. It seems likely that landfilling materials would consist largely of demolition waste
6. Mixing of waste is undesirable but the landfilling arrangements would not solve the basic problem of household waste sites sinking over time. After all this time and remediation, the site should be allowed to find its level and be left alone, not periodically topped up with further waste.
7. Large quantities of inert waste should be treated and re-used, not landfilled unless they are needed to remediate a site which is to be closed permanently. That could not be said of the Parbold Hill site.
8. Waste for landfill should be subject to the proximity principle but West Lancashire has a very low number of brownfield sites, meaning that much of the proposed landfill material would be transported over unnecessarily long distances.
9. West Lancashire has, and has had, more than its share of landfilling, including the controversial and huge hazardous waste site at Whitemoss. Enough is enough.
10. What is classified as inert waste now could be re-classified as hazardous waste later. History is littered with examples of substances that were regarded as benign being identified later as very harmful. A current example is plastics. Remediation activities could harm the Parbold Hill area for many years to come and this risk must not be allowed to affect such an important location.
11. The threat to the visitor economy of Parbold and other local areas would be felt most seriously by local businesses,
12. Access to the site by road would interfere seriously with the congested A5209 route into West Lancashire from the M6, thereby directly affecting businesses in Burscough, Ormskirk and areas such as Rufford, Tarleton, Scarisbrick and Southport and indirectly affecting rural roads in this Parish through re-direction of traffic away from the A5209.