

SLAIDBURN & EASINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Our Ref: PC/0158
Your Ref:
Date: 04 May 2020

Planning Department
Ribble Valley Borough Council
Council Offices
Clitheroe
Lancashire

Dear Sirs

Planning Application: 3.2020.0275
United Utilities, Hodder Works, Catlow Road, Slaidburn

We write regarding the above planning matter and wish to make the following representations in respect of this and any future planning applications in respect of the works proposed by United Utilities.

As you will be aware Slaidburn is in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty within the Hodder Valley. Everyone living in the village along with the rest of the Hodder Valley Parishes pride themselves on this undoubtedly unique and beautiful location. We are therefore raising the concerns of the members of our electorate who are extremely concerned about this project and the consequences for the area.

We have in the past experienced large projects at the water treatment plant and the damaging effects to our roads, buildings and the landscape and of course the effects this has on our community.

The main concerns are around the number of heavy vehicles which will be used in the transportation of materials and the additional vehicles used to bring in personnel to the site.

Whilst we understand that planning permission has not yet been granted by Ribble Valley Borough Council, we would like to make it clear that there are grave concerns regarding the application.

1. There are major concerns over the size of heavy traffic along with the number of these vehicles. The damage which can be caused to the buildings and boundary walls along the roads due to the vibrations these vehicles is untold. A further area for concern is the single track roads and the tight turns and bridges along the routes into the site. The corner of the Hark to Bounty has been damaged on many occasions, as has the bridge leaving Slaidburn towards the Skaithe by large vehicles. This causes concern to all about the safety of the routes the vehicles will be travelling and the heritage of the village. The single-track roads

are used by many of the farming community and there are very few passing places which makes travelling along these routes dangerous when one party will most likely be reversing around blind bends.

2. The road conditions are of grave concern and the amount of traffic which will be travelling on them causes this concern to rise, as this will deteriorate the condition further. There are many areas where the potholes are already very dangerous, and the road edges are subsiding making the road surface much narrower than it should be. This inevitably means that vehicles have to drive on the verges to pass one another which causes a hazard once the soil is on the highway, making it very slippery during certain weather conditions. This is an area which is brought to the attention of the Parish Councillors time and time again.
3. The additional traffic of both heavy vehicles and those carrying personnel are concerning. Most of Slaidburn does not have footpaths along the roadsides which, allows for parked vehicles on both sides of the road. This not only narrows the carriageway but forces pedestrians to have to walk into the said carriageway to manoeuvre these parked vehicles. This is quite worrying when new drivers are unaware of this and speed through the village. There is an elderly population in the parish, and this is extremely frightening for the residents when trying to move around their community.
4. The local area and the businesses rely not only on the support of the residents but of the tourism trade too. The area is a hive of activity with cyclists, ramblers and fishermen. These tourists come to our local area to enjoy the beauty and tranquillity which we enjoy on a daily basis. This tranquillity will potentially be damaged by additional heavy vehicles moving around and the damage they may cause as mentioned earlier to buildings, bridges, walls, verges and roads. This of course will have a knock-on effect to local businesses.
5. We are very lucky to have a wonderful rural primary school in the village. This does bring about major worries over the safety of the children, parents and staff when walking to school. The road is quite narrow around the school entrance, and it has been commented on that additional large vehicles passing through, at drop off and pick up time could cause not only traffic problems with vehicles not being able to pass one another but also to the risk to children and parents on foot. We would therefore ask that you consider the inclusion of a condition to the application restricting these vehicles passing through between 8.30 and 9 am in the morning and 3.15 and 3.45pm in the afternoon during term time. This gesture we feel is the minimum action we would like to see taken to reassure the residents that you are listening to their concerns.
6. The planning permission states that the majority of heavy vehicles will be carrying wet concrete. Has the possibility of the mixing of concrete on site been investigated? This would massively reduce the number of heavy vehicles and the risk to property, roads and disruption to residents and visitors alike.

We would ask that these comments are taken into account and acted upon where necessary by the planning department.

Yours sincerely


NIM BREATH CHAIRMAN

For and on behalf of
Slaidburn & Easington Parish Council