

Aighton Bailey and Chaigley Parish Council
c/o 17 Smithy Row
Hurst Green
Clitheroe
BB7 9QA
Email: clerk@aightonbaileyandchaigley-pc.gov.uk
07921472172

31st August 2026

Mrs M Cullen
Director of Economic Development and Planning
Ribble Valley Borough Council
Via email planning@ribblevalley.gov.uk

Dear Mrs Cullen,

Planning Application No: 3/2026/0587 Grid Ref: 367732 441971 Proposal: Construction of an earth banked slurry lagoon and associated landscaping to include native species tree planting Location: Plane Tree Farm Chipping Road Chaigley BB7 3LT

I am writing at the request of the ABC parish council to register serious concerns on behalf of the council in connection with the above planning application. The Parish Council, like the residents, accepts the need for the applicant to have a larger slurry tank or lagoon, however we would support any valid planning and environmental reservations raised by residents to the current proposal.

We understand that the applicant or their agent initially suggested a site nearer the farm and further from houses at Walker Fold but received verbal concerns from the Environment Agency about adjacent watercourses. However, following a site meeting of parish councillors and the Ribble Valley councillor for the area, it appears that the now proposed site is actually closer to other watercourses and a brook, and is much closer to residential buildings. Site visits by the planning authority and the Environment Agency would be able to determine whether this is correct. On this basis, we would ask that in place of this proposal, further consideration could be given to other solutions or a site closer to the farm and further from residential dwellings.

The matter was discussed at some length at the parish council meeting held on Monday 17th August which was also attended by residents of Walker Fold who wished to present their views to the council.

The concerns of the residents include the physical siting of the proposed new slurry lagoon closer to properties in the area than the current unit. This new proposal is for a much larger lagoon than currently in use by the farm. There is also the question of any impact on the area which is within the boundaries of The Forest of Bowland Natural Landscapes (formerly an AONB) and as such this development may be seen as detrimental to the natural topography. The new site is also nearer to a watercourse which can become very full during periods of heavy rain.

A parish councillor has also spoken with the applicant, and we appreciate the predicament he has. It is understood from the applicant that current slurry lagoon only has a four-month capacity fillage and new government regulations require six months. It has been stated by the farmer submitting the

application that it is not possible to extend the present lagoon as there is a major gas pipe in the vicinity and planning would not allow any development in that area. There are various water courses and fell water sources in other areas nearer to the farm which again the applicant has indicated that planning would not be sanctioned due to the possible contamination.

The Parish Council have taken all the above points into consideration and would request that the Planning Department consider whether it is possible for the applicant to consider using a different site within the farm boundaries.

Yours sincerely,

Frances Ahearne

Frances Ahearne
Clerk to Aighton Bailey and Chaigley Parish Council