

Waddington Parish Council
Correspondence address:
Carol Baird – WPC Clerk



21st July 2022

Ribble Valley Borough Council
Planning Department Council Offices
Clitheroe Lancashire BB7 2RA FAO John Macholc
By email to planning@ribblevalley.gov.uk

Dear Mr Macholc,

RE: Planning Application No: 3/2021/0660 and 0661 – Marl Hill Section of works to the Haweswater Aqueduct

I write in my capacity as Clerk to Waddington Parish Council (WPC). On 11 May 2021, WPC submitted a response to Lancashire County Council in reference to Armstrong Aggregates Ltds application for the restoration of Waddington Fell Quarry using arisings from HARP (ref LCC/2021/0015). This application is intrinsically linked to the RVBC planning applications 3/2021/0660 and 0661 discussed here.

In April 2022 United Utilities (UU) submitted to your department a Transport Technical Note Revision for the planning application referred to above. They then subsequently placed on the HARP consultation website a document summarising the details specifically for the centre of Waddington village.

This prompted WPC to contact UU direct, asking for a meeting so the details of their proposal could be clarified and the impact on the parish understood. Unfortunately, UU said they were unable to accommodate this request and had declined all other such requests in relation to this amendment. I have therefore been asked by WPC to now submit our comments without the full understanding of UU's intentions, based solely on their published documents.

Road safety – access, car parking , traffic generation and traffic management.

WPC has serious reservations about UU's road and parking restrictions suggested for West Bradford Road near the Waddington Alms Houses and the junction of Slaidburn Road. Putting in additional footpaths and wand walkers will only reduce the width of the road further, it is currently extremely difficult for HGV's to navigate this section, so by reducing the width of the road further it will make it impossible to safely navigate this section of road, for both pedestrians and road users. This is one of the main routes for Waddington & West Bradford school children to walk to school. A 'Priority over oncoming vehicles' and 'Give way to oncoming vehicles' signage will not facilitate the safe passage of traffic or pedestrians, as from either end it is impossible to see oncoming vehicles. This is obviously not safe. It is not acceptable for elderly residents to be expected to make alternative parking arrangements for what could be a number of years.

We have serious concerns for the proposed use of the B6478 through Waddington for HARP vehicles, for a loosely defined *temporary* period of 9 months whilst Route Option 2, the Haul Road and the Hodder crossing is constructed. The proposal to build the Ribble crossing from both ends (rather than in one direction from Pimlico Road) and the construction of the Hodder Crossing ahead of the Haul Road are central to our concerns.

WPC would also dispute the traffic numbers quoted in the amendment. Since the figures were first compiled, Waddington village has seen a large increase in HGV's travelling along this route to gain access to a number of building sites including Waddow Heights, due to the railway bridge height restrictions on Waddington Road. We would suggest that a more up to date survey be carried out.

We have been made aware the road re-surfacing works on the B6478 have recently been cancelled. The current road surface on the entire stretch of the B6478 is not fit for purpose for the additional vehicle movements predicted.

WPC have serious concerns that the delegation of the management of traffic to subcontractors in the TMP is not in the best interests of road safety.

Detrimental impact on Waddington Conservation Area and the local landscape including the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Beauty.

The Square, and parts of Slaidburn road, and West Bradford Road are within the Waddington Conservation Area and any new development should conform to policies within the Ribble Valley Local Plan. Proposed wand walkers and intrusive signage would be detrimental to the special character of the area.

Farm businesses within our parish will suffer from the loss of land. The removal of boundary features such as hedgerows, stonewalls and fences will adversely affect the landscape of our parish. The proposed compounds and haul road are considered to be "temporary". However, the timescales these features are likely to be there for are significant and attempts should be made to screen these features. It is assumed that the highway works, haul road and compounds would be removed, and land reinstated once works are completed. WPC seeks reassurances that this is the case.

Supporting a prosperous rural economy

Planning decisions should recognise the importance of local businesses, services and community facilities. These proposals will have a negative impact on the village school, access points for public transport, the village public houses, places of worship and the village shop.

Timing of your decision

It is our position that the Armstrong Aggregates Ltd's application for the restoration of Waddington Fell Quarry using arising from HARP (ref LCC/2021/0015) application is determined ahead of that taken by the RVBC. We find it unacceptable for instance for a decision to be made on the HARP road network options independently by RVBC, should the Quarry application, or the contract between interested parties, then fail and open up an avenue for transportation of the totality of the arisings through our village, either on the existing road network or via a Ribble crossing haul road.

It is the view of Waddington Parish Council that the two planning authorities should consult closely and include appropriate conditions or seek unilateral undertakings from the applicants in their respective planning decisions to reflect the interdependency of the applications.

Yours sincerely
Carol Baird
Clerk to Waddington Parish Council