

30th September, 2021

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Re Planning applications 3/2021/0660 and 3/2021/0661

I am writing to respond to the two planning proposals in respect of heavy goods haulage routes proposed by United Utilities from the A59 to the site compound on Waddington Fell.

Route 1 – (application no 3/2021/0060) Which runs from the A59 down Pimlico Rd, then through Chatburn , the lower parts of Grindleton and West Bradford

Route 2 - (application 3/2021/0061) Which runs from A59 down Pimlico Link Rd, across a temporary bridge to just west of the School in West Bradford.

I consider Route 1 to be totally unacceptable and join the many Chatburn, Grindleton and West Bradford residents and local councillors who are united in their objection to this route.

However, Route 2 along the Pimlico link road and over a temporary bridge would result in far less hazard and disruption to hundreds of local people.

Any solution chosen has to take into consideration the expected time the works are expected to last and the volume of additional traffic . i.e. A minimum of 6 years and heavy goods traffic movements of 5-10 per hour 7 days a week. The impact of the heavy traffic is something which will seriously affect the daily lives, safety and livelihoods of all those in the villages of Chatburn, Grindleton and West Bradford. Disruption of that scale is not something which can be tolerated over a minimum period of 6 years.

REASONS TO OBJECT TO ROUTE 1:-

ROAD SAFETY See Attached Map and corresponding images . The proposed amount of increased traffic of heavy goods vehicles would present a number of hazards to areas which are already at risk.

Hazard No 1 Junction of Worston Rd and Chatburn Rd

Only in the last week an accident happened here. It is a busy junction with a Petrol Station, Garage, Village Store and Empress Fencing (a timber yard). All these have cars coming in and out onto Chatburn Rd. There are always cars parked in that section of the road and it is an extremely busy area.

Hazard No 2. Entrance to Shackletons Garden Centre, opposite the entrance to a trading estate and entrance to a car park for a Dental Practice and block of apartments.

This is a particularly busy area with cars, heavy goods vehicles and commercial vans going in and out all day. Pedestrians and cyclists have to negotiate this busy area too.

Hazard No 3 – Chatburn Village Centre. Converging junction of Crow Trees Brow, Bridge Rd, Ribble Lane and Old Road.

As you will see from the image this is a particularly congested junction where a combination of activities takes place. Delivery vans and trucks for the shops; school bus stop; parking for residents and customers for the shops; the only access for residents from Old Rd; also constant through traffic for cars, vans, lorries and tractors from the village and other areas. It is also a bus route. Ribble Lane is very narrow and it is not possible to widen this road. Large vehicles regularly mount the pavement in front of the houses to pass one another as there are no passing points. Adding heavy traffic to all these factors is particularly hazardous for :-

- a. The schoolchildren who gather round the junction waiting for the school bus and hop off and walk straight into the road as per the attached illustration.
- b. Parents and children who walk to the village school through that junction and any pedestrians negotiating the narrow pavements.
- c. Dog walkers and ramblers. It is a popular route for dog walkers and ramblers often stop for refreshments in the shops.
- d. Any vehicles trying to negotiate the junction. Visibility is also compromised on Crow Trees Brow as it is difficult to see vehicles coming over the hill and in the early evening the sun shines directly into the sight line of anyone turning into Crow Trees Brow from Ribble Lane.

Hazard No 4 – East View

This area has been frequently flooded in bad weather and in those circumstances the road is closed. In the last winter someone had to be rescued from their car.

CONGESTION AND PARKING RESTRICTIONS

As you will see from the map there are 9 residential roads which are cul-de-sacs with access only via Ribble Lane and 5 residential cul-de-sac roads with access only to Crow Trees Brow. Also the trading Estate, Shackletons Car Park, The Dentist and Dash Computers only have access onto Chatburn Rd. There is already congestion in these areas and increased heavy traffic will put a daily pressure on all those living and working in those areas. Many of the roads in Chatburn contain housing with no private parking facilities. Thus, currently all roads in Chatburn are lined with cars from the occupants of those houses. Many households have more than one car and sometimes commercial vehicles as well.

The proposals suggest restricted parking, but this would cause a massive problem in the village for residents. The viability of the shops and businesses in the village would be seriously compromised and so the long-term effect on the village would be devastating.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Continual movements of heavy vehicles will have seriously damaging effect on resident's health and wellbeing. This will be from the HGV emissions, dust and noise from the vehicles.

This constant disruption would have a serious effect on the mental health of the residents and consequently would add to the strain on an already stretched health service.

Many in the village have regular visits from health workers and/or are collected by ambulance. Restricted parking would make this impossible.

Refuse Collections. There have been occasions when the narrow roads in the village have been blocked by a heavy vehicle and the refuse vans have not done a collection. The collections are done during working hours. If the bins are not collected this also presents a health hazard.

Emergency vehicle access. How will emergency vehicles get through if heavy vehicles are blocking the road?

ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE

Vibrations of the vehicles close to housing will not only affect the health of the residents but could cause damage to the structures of the houses.

Emissions from the vehicles will also damage the environment:-

There is a nature reserve owned by Castle Cement alongside Crow Trees Brow. This reserve contains a broad diversity of species including badgers, foxes and bats. It also contains a pond immediately next to the road. It is supported by the village school and volunteers from the village community.

ROAD SURFACES AND DRAINAGE

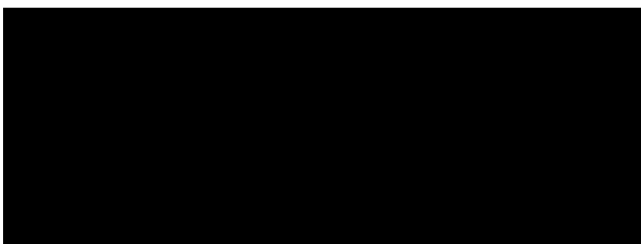
The roads in the village were not built for heavy vehicle use. Consequently they are under constant patch repairs when used by heavy vehicles. If road works were needed on Ribble Lane it would be impossible for heavy vehicles to use the road whilst works took place.

Ribble Lane, Old Road and Crow Trees Brow are all steep roads and in times of heavy rain the drains get blocked. Increase in the heavy vehicles covered in mud would add to the blocking of the drains and present an increased risk of flood.

REASONS TO APPROVE ROUTE NO.2:-

- a. It uses the link road and the advantages of that are:-
 - It was designed to take heavy traffic.
 - It is not on a hill and has no blind spots.
 - The proposed car park for the site workers is by Castle Cement which is on the link road.
 - It is a wide open road with plenty of room for passing vehicles.
 - There is a lay-by for heavy vehicles to stop and rest if necessary.
 - Pedestrians rarely use the link road.
 - There is no housing on the link road.
- b. It is a much safer route for heavy goods haulage, general traffic, cyclists and pedestrians.
- c. The daily lives and wellbeing of the villages, residents and businesses of Chatburn , Grindleton and West Bradford would not be disrupted.
- d. It is not a bus route or school bus route.

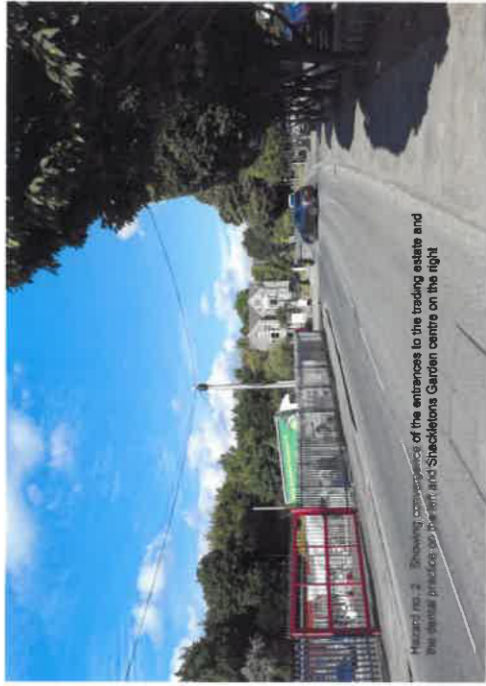
I trust these comments will be considered by Ribble Valley Council in the decision-making process.



n.b. see attached map.



Hazard No. 1 Showing Junction of Worship Rd, Chalfont Rd and the busy Payrol Station. Also the entrance to the Garage. Also the entrance to the trading estate. Accident happened in this proximity.



Hazard No. 2 Showing consequence of the entrances to the trading estate and the dental practice for the firm and Shackletons Garden Centre on the right



Hazard No. 3 Showing school play area children in the middle of the road. Heavy vehicles and parked cars. This is the position of Crow-Trees Brook. Brooge Road, Old Road and Pimlico Lane.