

West Lancs Borough Council.

Local Plan Committee Meeting Wednesday 29th July 6pm.

Briefing notes. Cllr Gordon

Officers informed the committee of the latest Government housing Quota increase. WLBC are now to deliver 591 houses per year so in a very short space of time we have gone from Government housing quotas of 562 then 584 and now 591.

The Government has imposed these housing numbers on WLBC, and this is not a decision taken at local council level. The problem with this huge increase in housing numbers is that we lose our 5-year housing land supply and are now in the region of 1.2 years housing supply. This means WLBC became overnight in breach of Government housing planning regulations regarding housing land supply. This is a critical point as WLBC will find it very difficult to control or fight against indiscriminate housing development as we move forward.

The issue that we find most concerning is that as we reach these housing targets this will automatically trigger further increases in housing quota numbers.

Officers also informed the committee that Parliament went into recess before giving assent to the new National Planning Policy Framework legislation. This makes things more time sensitive at local level for obvious reasons.

The Local Plan Committee has sent a polite letter to relevant Government ministers, and we have not had a reply yet. The letter sets out the unique set of circumstances governing West Lancashire and how these new Housing targets have brought various government legislation into conflict and we need clarification to proceed. The topics in the letter include building on grade 1 and 2 agricultural land best and most versatile in the country, we believe this is contrary to governments stance on National Security- food security. The other issues raised, flooding, pumped drainage, large areas of the Borough in flood zone 3, large areas of the Borough subject to surface water flooding and lack of infrastructure roads being one. The Letter was signed by the leader of the council Cllr David Whittington, Deputy Leader of the council Cllr Adrian Owens, Chairman of the Local plan committee Cllr Ian Rigby and Cllr John Gordon Vice chairman of the local plan committee.

Road News from parts of the Borough

Briefing notes. Cllr Gordon

The Road system in parts of the Borough has remained unchanged for the past 50 years. What has taken place is that secondary roads have had their bridges strengthened and in some cases canal bridges have been replaced with a new and stronger bridge. This has taken some of the pressure off the existing A roads but now these secondary roads are under pressure themselves at peak times and in many cases are not always suitable for the HGVs that try to use them not always successfully.

Tarleton have campaigned for over 20 for years for the 'Green Lane Link' to take traffic especially HGVs out of the centre of Tarleton Village this has been unsuccessful so far even though there have been many large housing developments in the village over this time.

Helen Shaw Chair of Lathom Parish Council. has formed A Road Group 11th June 2026 first meeting

Traffic Issues West Lancashire A5209/B5240/A59.

The group comprises Lathom Parish Council, Burscough Town Council, Newburgh Parish Council, Lathom South Parish Council, Up Holland Parish Council, Wrightington Parish Council, Dalton Parish Council and Rufford Parish Council with Borough and LCC councillors attending.

The group is sharing Speed Indicator and traffic volume numbers with a view to show that existing road infrastructure is now inadequate due the housing developments that have already taken place. There are more housing developments due to take place in Burscough with numbers in the Hundreds.

The Group is also concerned with the air quality from standing traffic in the area when the roads are gridlocked. This part of the Borough can sometimes see a breakdown in Bin collections due to the Bin Waggons being unable to access properties this can be caused by volume of traffic, road works, and accidents with no way of bypassing these problems.

The Group would like to see a bypass constructed from Burscough Industrial Estate to the M 58 to help with traffic congestion by taking HGVs off the existing roads.
