

THE FACTS ABOUT THE GREENLANDS FARM BROCHURE

Last week you received a brochure about Greenlands Farm, which was full of inaccuracies and which has caused great upset for many Wrea Green residents.

Fylde Borough Council agree that the brochure has no validity or credibility whatsoever. Please see their full statement on the council website, which we reproduce in part below:

Mr Allan Oldfield, Fylde Council Chief Executive, said: **“I can categorically reassure residents that the Council has not provided any advice, confirmation or support for any of the information published in the leaflet.**

“There has been no advice from any planning officer at Fylde and the council completely dissociates itself from the contents of the leaflet.

“The leaflet has no validity or credibility as far as the council is concerned. None of the options outlined in the leaflet have any substance and have not been discussed with Fylde planners.

“This leaflet has caused undue distress to residents and it is unfortunate that the publishers have chosen to peddle this message to the local community. Hopefully, residents can be reassured knowing that the claims have no support from the Council.”

THE INACCURACIES IN THE BROCHURE ARE ENORMOUS. PLEASE BE REASSURED BY THE FACTS BELOW. ALL THE PEOPLE AND COMPANIES NAMED IN THIS LETTER HAVE GIVEN THEIR PERMISSION TO BE QUOTED.

Chairman of our Parish Council, Councillor Janet Wardell JP: *“The Parish Council were understandably interested to learn more about plans for community sports facilities for the village of Wrea Green. However it was soon apparent that the impetus for the development was a stadium for AFC Fylde not facilities for the community of Wrea Green. The Parish Council fully understands the weight of local objection to the stadium application and wholeheartedly supports Fylde Borough Council’s decision to refuse it. The Parish Council has on two occasions agreed to meet with Mr Haythornthwaite to discuss his plans. On each of these dates Mr Haythornthwaite has been conspicuous by his absence.”*

Councillor Frank Andrews: *“ I have never distorted any facts concerning Greenlands Farm, there is patently no need to. During the 2010 and 2011 elections it was the residents themselves who expressed their anxiety to me about the location of a 2,500 capacity stadium. It was absolutely crystal clear to all that the site which immediately adjoins residential housing was entirely unsuitable and that the village was not a viable location for AFC Fylde’s new stadium. To try and pressurise and/or scare Wrea Green residents into removing their objections is hardly likely to succeed and I wonder what David Haythornthwaite hopes to achieve by producing his leaflet.”*

Richard Wilson, Chairman of Wrea Green Cricket Club, has entirely refuted the claims made against the cricket club in the brochure in a full statement on the cricket club website. His key points include that Mr Haythornthwaite has no sympathizer for this scheme from the Wrea Green Cricket Club, that the club continues to consider the valued opportunity of an alternative new ground close to the Villa and have always fully understood the funding implications of this opportunity. Despite the destructive claims in the brochure that there is a rift between the senior club and the juniors, Wrea Green Cricket Club has never in its 100 year history been more united.

Richard Wilson’s statement is entirely supported by the owner of the Villa, Simon Rigby, who says, *“What the leaflet said about me is not only completely inaccurate but I have NOT even spoken to the Wrea Green Junior Cricket Section.”*

SITE FOR EXPLORATION AND EXTRACTION OF SHALE GAS:

Stephen Smith, spokesperson for Cuadrilla Resources, has contacted both the MP and anti stadium campaigners with the following statement:

Cuadrilla has absolutely no plans to carry out any drilling or hydraulic fracturing near Wrea Green. We have not discussed or considered operating at a site in the Wrea Green area.

Cuadrilla also explained they have not given permission for their company's name to be used in the brochure. They have no interest in the Greenlands site, other than for their widespread geophysical survey. What is more, due to the nature of the Government's gas licensing system, only Cuadrilla would be able to operate in the Fylde. The brochure's suggestion of other competing companies is therefore wholly inaccurate.

SOCIAL HOUSING:

The very nature of social housing, a responsibility and obligation placed upon housing developers, means that the developer in many cases does not even receive the build cost for such units when they are transferred to a Registered Social Landlord. Mr Haythornthwaite is not a Registered Social Landlord (RSL). He would have to sell the social houses to an RSL. Allocating land for 100% social housing (even if this could get planning permission) is an absolute non-starter.

It has been evidenced by the Redrow development in Wrea Green that the demand for affordable housing in the village is very limited and therefore not a development opportunity for this site.

INDUSTRIAL ESTATE:

Contrary to the brochure, this site at Greenlands Farm is not a 'very easy site upon which to achieve change of use'. The new national planning guidance, now in full effect, explains that land that has agricultural buildings upon it, such as Greenlands Farm, is NOT considered to be previously developed land. The site at Greenlands is entirely made up of greenfield and countryside.

In addition please consider who would buy or rent units in a rural area when there are still acres of commercial land with far better transport links on the Whitehills Business Park near Blackpool?

TRAVELLERS' SITE:

Fylde Borough Council has made it very clear in their press statement above, on their website, and in the local press, that the brochure's claim that Mr Haythornthwaite has been advised that this site fits the bill perfectly as a travellers' site has no validity or credibility whatsoever.

There is no evidence to suggest that this site would attract planning permission as a travellers' site. In addition the new planning guidance, NPPF, in full effect from April 2012, has made the process for travellers to obtain permission much more robust.

CONSULTATION WITH WREA GREEN:

The brochure asks residents to engage with Mr Haythornthwaite, to tell HSF what we think. The fact is that residents have already fully engaged with the planning process as set out by Fylde Borough Council. We have submitted over 350 objection letters regarding the HSF application for Greenlands. We have told HSF what we think.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT!