

# Winwick <sup>really</sup> Matters



The Newsletter of Winwick Parish Council, covering Winwick Village, Winwick Park, Houghton Green, Hermitage Green, "White City", part Grasmere/Greenwood Estate and part of Cinnamon Brow/Fearnhead

## ***SPECIAL EDITION*** ***"FIGHTING TO PROTECT WINWICK"***

*"I'm sure that by now, most residents of Winwick and the surrounding area will be aware of Astral Developments proposed plans to develop the former Parkside colliery as a rail freight terminal. Winwick Parish Council has resolved to fight this development and has formed a partnership with the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), to do so.*

*The Parish Council is using this Summer edition of Winwick Matters, as a focus for its campaign and to inform local people of the facts regarding Astral's proposals.*



*We hope that you will consider the facts and join us in defending our environment and quality of life"*

*John Gordon, Chairman Winwick Parish Council*

**Astral intend to develop over 300 acres of Greenbelt! Not the 20 acres that the old Colliery sat upon.**

**The site contains a stunning ecosystem as this picture demonstrates– Go for a walk and see for yourself!**



## Parkside – 4 Key Questions

- 5 million sq ft warehousing to be built on the site-why so much?
- Will the rail industry support it?
- Can the M6 and local roads cope with the additional traffic?
- What effect will the development have on the environment?

The developers propose to take 500,000 HGV movements a year off the roads by building this development. The result of this for the area however is to have 3000-4000 HGV's in and out of Parkside each day 24/7. That is one approx every 21 seconds. Network Rail have stated, in writing, to the Parish Council that they are in discussion with Astral to run only 7 trains a day into the development-an obvious imbalance in the amount of freight in and out of the site each day.

***IS THIS THEREFORE A RAIL FRIEGHT TERMINAL OR PERHAPS EUROPE'S BIGGEST DISTRIBUTION DEPOT WITH THE MAJORITY OF FREIGHT ARRIVING AND LEAVING BY ROAD?***

Apart from the overall environmental impact the development would make to Winwick, in terms of both air and noise pollution, a major issue is clearly one of the effects of the changes to junction 22 of the M6. The proposal is to demolish the existing roundabout and replace it with 2 new ones. One which will lead to a new road cutting back across the M6 into the development. Those of you who followed the motorway service inquiry 3 years ago will recall the inspectors comments on the serious impact additional traffic in the area would have had on quality of life in Winwick and in particular how he has listened to the views of local residents on the effects it would have on their daily lives.

***THE IMPACT OF THE PERIOD OF CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW JUNCTION AND INCREASED TRAFFIC CONJESTION AS THE DEVELOPMENT CAME INTO USE IS SOMETHING WE SHOULD ALL BE EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT. CAN YOU CONTEMPLATE TRAFFIC CONDITIONS IN AND AROUND WINWICK IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO BLOCK THE M6 AND TRAFFIC DIVERTS THROUGH WARRINGTON?***



View across the site

## Key Questions –Continued

And what about the greenbelt?

We hear much about the protection of the greenbelt and it's importance. Only 6% of the proposed site for this rail depot was utilised by the colliery.

It is predominately countryside and farmland. There are buildings listed as of historical interest, in particular a fine ancient barn and the site of St Oswald's Well. There is a wide variety of wildlife, flora and fauna.

***THE DEVELOPER HAS PROPOSED A COUNTRY PARK AS PART OF THEIR PROPOSAL. THIS HOWEVER WOULD ONLY REPRESENT A FRACTION OF THE FINE NATURAL COUNTRYSIDE ENVIRONMENT WHICH ALREADY EXISTS.***

## Next Steps?

Astral Developments have completed a pre-planning consultation and have commissioned a environmental impact study which is a prerequisite stage to them submitting a full planning application. As the development crosses the boundaries of Warrington, St Helens and Wigan, planning approval has to be sought from all 3 Local Authorities. On present information the applications will be submitted this autumn.

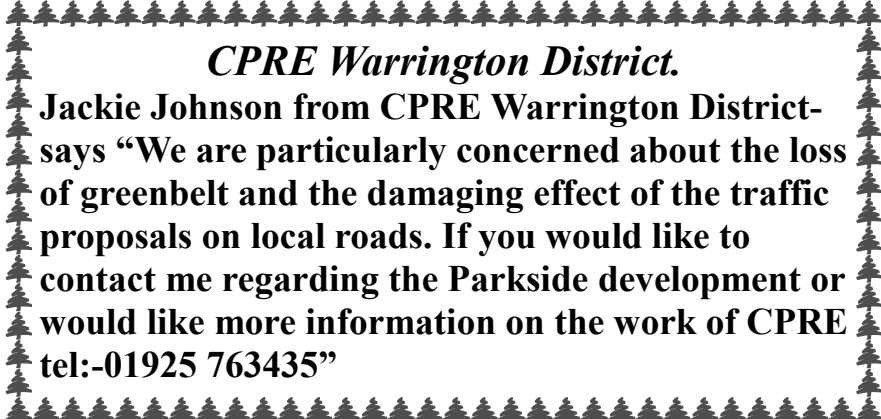
***WE HOPE THAT THIS NEWSLETTER HAS STIMULATED YOU INTO HAVING YOUR SAY? IF YOU WISH TO DO SO ,WRITE TO EACH OF THE 3 LOCAL AUTORITIES INVOLVED, STATE YOUR INTEREST IN THE PLANS AND REQUEST THAT THEY FORMALY CONSULT YOU.***

You can do so at the following addresses:-

Urban Regeneration and Housing  
Town Hall  
Victoria Square  
St Helens  
Merseyside  
WA10 1 DY

Environment and Regeneration  
New Town House  
Buttermarket Street  
Warrington  
WA1 2NH

Planning and Regeneration  
Civic Buildings  
New Market Street  
Wigan  
WN1 1RR

  
***CPRE Warrington District.***  
Jackie Johnson from CPRE Warrington District-  
says "We are particularly concerned about the loss  
of greenbelt and the damaging effect of the traffic  
proposals on local roads. If you would like to  
contact me regarding the Parkside development or  
would like more information on the work of CPRE  
tel:-01925 763435"

## ***Should Local Landmark Be Returned?***

Can you remember the water tower at Winwick Hospital and in particular the weather vane which sat on top of it? The weather vane has been rescued and although in need of extensive repairs it is available to be placed somewhere in Winwick. Countryside Properties has offered the vane to the Borough Council with a cheque for £10,000 for its restoration and possible re-erection in Winwick. It is a large structure approx 5 metres high and would require a base to sit on of at least 3 metres to prevent vandalism. It has been suggested it be erected on the A49 roundabout at the end of the link road. But what do you think?

An alternative would be to spend the money on a Community Arts Programme in Winwick.

If you wish to comment please contact Les Higgins.

Details below

## ***Good Neighbour Award 2005***

**Winwick Parish Council in partnership with Warrington Borough Council is sponsoring a "Good Neighbour Award"** The award is designed to encourage citizenship for people who live within the Parish of Winwick. It will reward someone who is making a difference to an individual, or a group of people in the areas of personal care, care for the environment, or care for the community. The criteria for judging will be that the person has made a real difference to an individual or the communities quality of life.

The project is supported by Warrington Borough Council, who have generously donated £150 as a cash prize to the winner. Nominations from individuals and organisations for anyone who would meet this criteria should be made to:- Les Higgins, Clerk to the Winwick Parish Council, PO Box 348 Wigan, WN3 6WA, no later than 14th October 2005, together with details of the reasons for the nomination and your relationship to the nominated person need to be included, together with a contact name, address and telephone number.

***Thanks to the Manager***

***Dear Lorraine,***

***Our daughters wedding on 11th June was a tremendous success in large part because of your expertise and professionalism. Many thanks and much appreciation to you personally Lorraine and your staff on helping to make Deborah and Marcus's special day such a success.***

***We were pleased to have chosen Winwick Leisure Centre for the reception and will be sure to recommend you to our friends.-Judith & George Savage***

**If you have any comments, complaints or compliments regarding this newsletter please contact the Editor:-**

**Les Higgins, Clerk to the Parish Council, PO Box 348 Wigan, WN3 6WA or tel. 01942 213104**