

**SCRUTINY PANEL REVIEW OF WALLEY'S QUARRY LANDFILL SITE
QUESTIONS TO LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS**

NAME **Henryk Adamczuk**

REPRESENTING **Western Communities (Cross Heath, Knutton and Silverdale) LAP**

- 1 How many people does your group represent?
The total population is about 13,000 in the three wards.
- 2 What is the geographical area covered by your group?
Western Communities (Cross Heath, Knutton and Silverdale)
- 3 What topics would you like to speak to the Panel on?
**What it is like to live close to the landfill site.
How the LAP responded to the Red Industries request to the Environment Agency for an increase in the tonnage.**

Western Communities LAP unanimously agreed in October 2019 that the LAP opposes this request until confirmation that the increase will not adversely affect residents. The Chair had put forward in writing the argument from the LAP for not allowing an increase in the tonnage being removed.

The reasons given include HGV Pollution; Vehicle route goes past school and social needs. It is also recognised by residents that the smell is not good for health. The Quarry affects residents quality of life residents living close to the site cannot open windows or go into their gardens sometimes. Concerns were raised that the vehicles accessing and leaving site are not properly covered and therefore drop debris on the road which has to be cleaned up by NBC. The contractors need to comply with the Health and Safety regulations that are in place for the site.

- 4 Are these issues better or worse at different times of the day/year or in different weather conditions? **Yes. It is well documented in the air quality reports.**
- 5 Do you know how to raise issues about operations on site, and who to raise those issues with? **Yes.**
- 6 Have you raised any issues about operations on site, who with, and what was the outcome? **Yes.**
- 7 What do you think RED Industries does well? **The funding of gym equipment at Ilkley Place and the future funding of the Skateboard area in Silverdale Park was made through Red Industries grant. At a local level the issues are**
 - **Odour**
 - **Dust**
 - **Debris from the vehicles**
 - **Seagulls**
 - **Visual appearance within the locality**

The odour can be variable both within its strength and when it can appear and so is not always weather dependant. It can also be different as to where it appears in the locality. Dust is definitely more of a problem during dry weather and can be exacerbated by wind- symptoms of irritation to nose and

throat that only appear when at home particularly during this recent dry spell. The seagulls are with us on a daily basis.

As the landfill has got higher it is now clearly more visible from the house and the road when driving past the site generally making the area unsightly and unpleasant to live in.

The effects on mental health having to put up with regular disturbances in the environment make living here difficult. Social activities within the home are less frequent as one cannot predict when it is either safe or pleasant to do so.

The effect is that especially with the odour that it is frequently difficult to enjoy one's home, not be able to sit out in the garden or even do the gardening. Often the smell enters the home during the night (sleeping with the window open) and does wake you up. Smell is subjective and affects people in different ways. The current way of defining the smell on reporting is flawed in this way and little notice appears to be taken of how the reporter feels about the situation at the time.

Contacting the environment agency is easy but I feel that feedback is poor and there is little communication.

Red Industries do have a fair record of social responsibility in respect of support to local initiatives within the community. However I think that they should communicate better with the local residents to the Landfill site about any concerns that anyone living in the area has and also future plans. I also think that the latter applies to the other agencies involved, namely the County and borough Councils and the Environment agency.

8 What do you think the RED Industries could do better? See **Silverdale PC response**

9 What do you think the Environment Agency, the Borough Council or the County Council do well? See **Silverdale PC response**

10 What do you think the Environment Agency, the Borough Council or the County Council could do better? See **Silverdale PC response**

The Panel has been asked to specifically consider your thoughts on the proposal to increase the amount of waste that RED Industries is allowed to import to the site from 250,000 per year to 400,000 tonnes per year up until 2024. RED Industries made an application to the Environment Agency (EA) in 2019 to allow this increase under their Environmental Permit. The EA consulted on this application and more information is available here:-

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/psc/st5-6dh-red-industries-limited/>

11 Whilst the importation limits are a matter for the Environment Agency, please let us know if your answers to any of the questions above would be different under the varied Environmental Permit.

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In brief the effects of the increase from 250,000 to 400,000 tonnes of waste has not been assessed yet (August 2020) from a Public Health perspective and all data collected has related to the lower 250,000 tonne amount.

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