

# PARKSIDE FACTSHEET

Parkside Action Group

[www.parksideactiongroup.org.uk](http://www.parksideactiongroup.org.uk)



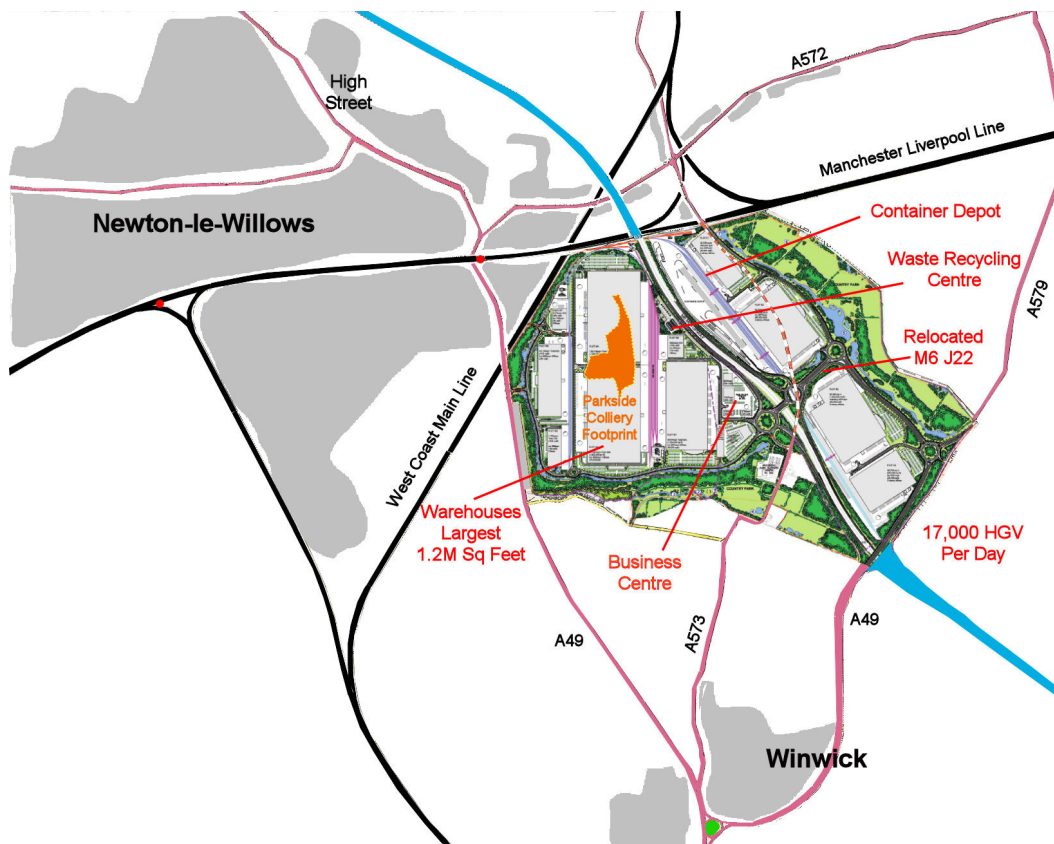
## Background

In 2006 Astral Developments, part of the Prologis group, submitted plans to develop (on Green Belt land) the **biggest warehousing distribution centre ever built in Europe**. Proposals include a container handling depot, waste recycling plant, a retail park and a power plant. The location is at the former Parkside Colliery Site, Newton-le-Willows [between junctions 22 and 23 of the M6].

The planned development extends into a massive area of natural countryside. The size equates approximately to 670 football pitches - around 80% the size of Newton-le-Willows and Earlestown combined or the whole area of Pennington Flash Country Park.

The proposal is currently at the planning stage with a decision yet to be taken by St Helens and Warrington MBCs. Wigan MBC has already rejected the scheme due to lack of clarity and traffic impacts.

## Map showing the location of the proposed development



## How will this affect the local area?

This will lead to colossal traffic increases with permanent loss of countryside over a large area and unacceptable air and light pollution. Although Newton-le-Willows and Winwick will sit directly by this operation the immense scale of the development will mean Haydock, Croft, Culcheth, Ashton in Makerfield, Golborne, Lowton and parts of Warrington and Wigan will be directly impacted.

## Parkside Action Group Working for You

Following Astral's planning application residents formed The Parkside Action Group (PAG) from across the three Boroughs of St Helens, Warrington and Wigan. PAG members are local people from all walks of life who have successfully made representations at several levels against this development. In the main the local community standpoint has been one of strong opposition to Astral's planned development

## What you should know

- ❖ Warehousing will be over 7.69 million square feet. This will easily make it the biggest in the UK and even potentially the biggest in Europe. It will be fully operational every day of the year and every hour of every day. The community will have to suffer the noise, light and air pollution that is inevitable from such an operation.



***Currently this is fresh air and open spaces on Green Belt countryside. It will be replaced by something like this and what's more it will be right on your doorstep.***

- ❖ At peak times an extra HGV every 5 seconds is expected to be added to the existing traffic on the M6, M62 and A580 (East Lancs. Road) as well as potentially on the other local roads. This equates to an extra 6m HGV vehicles per year.



***All too common traffic congestion on the local motorway network. What will things be like with an extra 6 million HGV vehicles per year?***

- ❖ The Highways Agency plan that Junction 22 of the M6 will be relocated and allocated for the site. Note the Agency is only responsible for motorways and trunk roads. Neither the traffic impact on local roads nor effective enforcement for any HGV over spills on local roads has been accounted for.
- ❖ To service the site there will be modifications at 17 local road junctions some with restricted access to the public. Even not accounting for the basic planning gaps described above there is no doubt it will be much harder to travel about the area.

- ❖ Newton-le-Willows already has two designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) by St Helens MBC. These are due to current national air quality objectives being exceeded. Both of these areas are directly adjoining the Parkside site. This pollution is totally motor vehicle related and has recognised (and significant) implications for respiratory and other health concerns. Given this is already acknowledged, how the predicted traffic volumes will impact is another critical aspect to be addressed.
- ❖ The size of the warehousing planned is testimony to the operation principally being a "Road to Road" freight operation. Rail freight interchanges do not require extensive warehousing - examine Trafford Park or Port Salford as examples. Without doubt it is likely that much existing North West road freight distribution will relocate to the site.
- ❖ Much play has been made of new jobs but be aware that significant numbers of these jobs are existing jobs already in the area that will simply move to the new site.

## Well what can I do?

You can do a lot and **without** your support this development will become reality.

Parkside Action Group always meets the first Wednesday of every month at 8:00pm at Winwick Leisure Centre. Everyone is very welcome. There is no obligation - you can do as much or as little as you want or you can just listen and find out more.

If you need more detail your best options are to view our regularly updated website or e-mail us.

**[www.parksideactiongroup.org.uk](http://www.parksideactiongroup.org.uk)**

### Contacting Us

Email: [Help@parksideactiongroup.org.uk](mailto:Help@parksideactiongroup.org.uk)

### Or write to:

Parkside Action Group, PO Box 17,  
Newton-le-Willows, WA3 3WX.

## Remember

**When the green belt goes – it's gone for good!**

**Do something about it and make a difference!**