

Oldham Council plan to impose on residents, a Highways Scheme that was proven 'unsafe' (by professional consultants TfGM) - but planning permission was obtained by unlawful deception

- A conspiracy to lie about the outcome of Traffic and Highways Assessments and to withhold facts about serious safety issues has resulted in a dangerous highways scheme being granted planning permission by Oldham Council.
- Oldham Council (particularly Borough Solicitor Paul Entwistle and Chief Executive Carolyn Wilkins) have wilfully ignored and refused to investigate complaints about a fraudulent Planning Officer Report, which secured planning permission for the scheme in February 2019, and are now attempting to rush through a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to begin the imposition the unsafe scheme on residents.

In August 2019 it was widely reported in local newspapers that Oldham Council's **Head of Planning Stephen Irvine**, had been **suspended under investigation for 'gross misconduct'**. There was widespread speculation as to why this may be as it happened around the time when residents were making complaints to the council & to the Secretary of State for Communities regarding two controversial planning applications overseen by Mr. Irvine, for which planning permission was granted in 2019: The Saddleworth School development and another proposed development for 265 homes that would destroy yet another rural valley in nearby Lees.

Oldham Council refused to tell local journalists 'what went on' and refused to answer resident's FOI requests regarding the reasons behind the disciplinary action – they refused to 'confirm or deny' whether the allegations of 'gross misconduct' related to Mr. Irvine's role in planning.

Fraudulent Planning Officer Report

In February 2019 Oldham Council Planning Committee voted through the four Saddleworth School planning applications including Application D (PA/337930/15) for the controversial highways scheme. However, planning permission was predicated on false information: the factual outcomes of Traffic Modelling and Safety Assessments were **substituted for outright lies** in the Planning Officer Report to Planning Committee and therefore the planning committee and a wider audience were falsely informed regarding traffic and safety issues.

Former Head of Planning Stephen Irvine led the planning committee to believe that the highways scheme design had passed all safety assessments and would operate safely, when in fact the complete opposite was true. Mr. Irvine managed to pull off this utter lie by **withholding** the two most recent **consultation responses** received from professional consultants TfGM (Transport for Greater Manchester) who carried out the traffic modelling exercise and by **lying about what their conclusions were**. Following their assessments, TfGM came to the conclusion that the scheme is unsafe; they state '*our primary concern is that the scheme is unsafe*' and '*we would not support this scheme*'. Thus, a scheme shown to be dangerous by TfGM's assessments was made out to have passed all the safety tests so that it could be pushed through planning 'on the nod'.

If you would like to complain about this – write to the ESFA who are funding the school and to the Secretary of State for Education. All correspondence to the Council will fall on deaf ears.

PLEASE SEE: <http://stopthelandswap.co.uk/petition-news/>
<http://stopthelandswap.co.uk/planning-fraud/>