

“A Heath Charnock Parish Councillor attended a recent Planning Committee to speak to a major planning application in the Parish which was being considered that evening. At Planning Committee meetings the time allocated to each speaker is strictly managed.

The three minutes currently allowed for the Parish Council’s contribution was not enough time for all the relevant local issues and knowledge to be conveyed to the Committee. This local knowledge is particularly important where applicants increasingly rely upon consultants’ reports to support a planning application. Many consultant reports are compiled as desk based studies, usually with very limited, if any, on-site visits or on location assessment of topography, ground conditions or flood risk management considerations etc in respect of the application site and its immediate surroundings.

Heath Charnock Parish Council recommends that like a Ward Councillor, a democratically appointed Parish Councillor should have up to five minutes to speak at Planning Committee when the application is within their own area to pass on their local knowledge and expertise.

Heath Charnock Parish Council asks that this be considered at the Chorley Liaison meeting, and if supported, is put forward as a recommendation to be considered by Chorley Council’s Chief Planning Officer and/or the Planning Committee.

Heath Charnock Parish Council”