

## Questions to the United Utilities representatives – written responses provided by Hazel Gregory

### 1. What links do you have with other local authorities?

United Utilities works closely with all Local Authorities within the West Pennine Moors Partnership, this includes Chorley. UU produces reports and attends the various Local Advisory Group meetings inc Rivington and Brinscall and also attends any WPM officer meetings. In the Rivington area UU works especially close to Ian Heywood – Heritage Officer at Chorley and the Neighbourhood Officers to deal with any dog fouling, lost dogs and flytipping issues.

### 2. Do you have any ways of working with these Councils that we could benefit from?

Chorley is included in the WPM partnership.

### 3. Do you have strategy in place to encourage visitors/the use of the Rivington area? If so, what are the main objectives?

Rivington is already extremely popular with visitors, the area cannot cope with the vehicular traffic that already visits the area, we do not actively advertise to attract additional visitors. Information is available on the UU web site concerning all our sites, this includes Rivington. We are in the process of updating the information available on Rivington – onsite interpretation and on the website.

### 4. What do you think the key attributes of the Rivington area are that attracts visitors?

Rivington has many facilities – toilets, cafés, parking, along with its history and areas of interest including Rivington Terraced Gardens, Liverpool Castle, Rivington Pike. There are many footpaths and bridleways enabling a variety of recreational pursuits from easy family walks, gentle bike rides through to rambling across the moors and connections to long distance bridleway routes and the recently established Go Ape course.

### 5. Is there anything that the Council is doing at the moment that you think hinders tourism?

### 6. Is there anything that the Council could do to help encourage more tourists to visit your attraction?

Public transport is poor to most rural areas; the provision of a regular bus service to the area would vastly improve access for those without their own transport and reduce the number of cars in the area. A better bus service to countryside areas in general would enable the public to visit other areas too and take some of the visitor pressure away from Rivington. The Public Rights of Way in the area are the responsibility of the council to maintain – more work on these would improve the visitor experience and make it safer for the visitors. Rivington Pike is owned by Chorley Council this is visited by thousands of people on Good Friday each year yet there are no staff from Chorley present on this day neither do Chorley assist with the clean up involved on the Saturday.

Just to reiterate Rivington has approx 1 million visitors a year, the parking available does not meet the demand of weekends and bank holidays. People Park all over including roadside verges – making them rutted and unsightly, grid lock occurs by people parking badly resulting with restricted vehicle access to only 1 vehicle so it causes many problems. Vehicles are compacting tree roots where they are parking on verges which can lead to disease and ultimately the tree can become unstable and therefore will be felled. Without a regular public transport service and potentially increased parking Rivington cannot withstand an increase in visitor numbers.