To: Liverpool City Council Planning and Air Quality Department
From: Garston Councillors **Sam Gorst** and **Lucy Williams**

Date 17 November 2026

Re: **Dragon Asphalt Application 26F/2650**

We are writing to you directly because we believe you have a right to know exactly what has been taking place regarding the Dragon Asphalt planning and environmental permit application.

Dragon Asphalt Ltd has applied for two separate permissions for their site at Yard 2, Old Dock Road, Port of Garston, L19 2JW: full planning permission, reference 26F/2650, to establish and operate an industrial facility and an environmental permit to coat road stone with tar or bitumen on site. If granted, this would mean regular industrial operations involving bitumen processing, increased heavy vehicle traffic and additional emissions in our area.

On 16 November 2026, we first learned that a full planning application had been submitted. This came as a surprise because the application was not listed on the weekly planning register for either the received date of 23 September 2026 or the valid date of 22 October 2026 lists that we check routinely. We only learned of it as a result of receiving an email for our comments about an Environmental Permit on the same site.

We raised this immediately with senior officers at Liverpool City Council. They have since acknowledged that the application was indeed missing from the list and have confirmed an internal investigation is underway to understand why this happened. We were subsequently informed that we had been notified on 26 October; however, neither of us has any record or recollection of receiving such notification. The consequence is that both we, as your elected representatives and you, as residents, were kept in the dark longer than you should have been. That is not acceptable to us. Local community groups also regularly receive the ‘Planning Application Received List’, Dragon Asphalt was omitted from the list covering the date it was received according to the Planning Portal on Liverpool City Council’s website.

When we examined how the Council had publicised this application locally, we found that only three physical site notices were erected: two on King Street, directly opposite one another and one on Kings Lynn Drive. This is for a development that will potentially impact Cressington Heath Estate, Churchfields Estate, Cressington Park, and the wider neighbourhood, hundreds of households across multiple residential roads. The application was also advertised in a local print newspaper. This is also antiquated as print circulation is very limited meaning many people simply would not have seen it. We asked whether it had been shared on any online platforms; to date, we have not received confirmation that it was. We have made clear to the Council that this level of consultation falls far short of what is appropriate or reasonable. The Council believe they have met their statutory duties and legal obligations. It is not good enough to place three notices and then say we followed the rules when the people most affected never had a reasonable opportunity to find out what was happening.

Earlier in the process, Dragon Asphalt approached us to request a pre-application meeting. We declined to meet independently of Council officers; our clear preference was for any discussions to be transparent and properly minuted. We have since learned that a discussion between the developer and Council officers did in fact take place and we were

neither invited nor informed. We have raised our disappointment with the Council and have stated clearly that, going forward, for any pre-planning discussions relating to industry or development within Garston ward, we expect to be invited. If members are expected to meet developers only in the presence of officers, that principle should apply equally or at the very least, we should be invited and given the choice whether to attend.

Our concerns go far beyond process and procedure, they are rooted in what is best for our community's health. Air quality in Garston is already classified as poor and does not meet World Health Organisation safety guidelines. Our neighbourhood already contends daily with emissions, dust and noise from multiple existing industrial operations: Long Rake Spar, Premier Cement, and Veolia alongside the proposed Peloton development. We are currently partners in active research led by local universities and housing associations, monitoring the impact of air quality on children's respiratory health in Speke and Garston. The early findings are already a cause for concern. Adding another facility that processes tar and bitumen will only increase the cumulative pollution burden that our families live with every single day. We are also concerned about the precedent set by the recent Peloton appeal outcome, specifically whether the Council's approach to air quality protection has been weakened due to their failure to initially support the community against the air pollution harms within the case and whether that will set a lower standard for future applications like this one.

For all these reasons, we have formally submitted our objection to this application.

We have requested that the deadline be extended for a further 21 days for the lack of consultation. The Council have agreed to keep it open until a decision is made. We are also requesting that this go to committee for full scrutiny.

You can view the documents and submit your comments online https://liverpool.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/search-and-track-planning-applications.

Alternatively, you may email your comments to both planning@liverpool.gov.uk and airquality@liverpool.gov.uk, please quote reference 26F/2650 or send them by post to Planning and Air Quality Departments, 4th Floor, Cunard Building, Water Street, Liverpool, L3 1AH.

Every objection or observation you submit will be read and considered before any decision is made. Your voice makes a real difference.

We will continue to monitor this closely and will update you as soon as we have any further news. Garston is our home too. We believe our community has already carried more than its fair share of industrial impact. Our children deserve clean air. You deserve to be consulted properly not as an afterthought. We will keep asking the difficult questions, we will keep holding the Council to account and we will keep standing with you.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact us directly. You are also welcome to attend our regular advice surgery held on the **first Tuesday of each month**, 7.30pm to 8.30pm at Long Lane Church, Long Lane, L19 6PF.