



Rt. Hon. IAN McCARTNEY,  
SOCIALIST M.P., MAKERFIELD

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To The Residents of Ince Central Estate.

13<sup>th</sup> April 2004.

Dear Resident,

Soil Contamination Investigation.

When I became aware of the soil contamination problems last October, I immediately contacted the Council's Director of Environmental Health, Wigan and Leigh Homes and the local Councillors to offer my support for local residents in dealing with a potentially very serious situation. Later I also spoke with the Primary Care Trust's Director of Public Health.

Since that time I have been closely following developments with the soil investigation on your estate and to keep me up to date on progress, have received copies of the newsletters that have been distributed in the community.

I am pleased to see that a Residents Liaison Group has been established to enable local people to raise their concerns and discuss the issues with senior officers and Ward Councillors at different stages of the investigation. I want to give you my commitment that I am more than happy to work with the Group, particularly given that we know now the full extent of the soil contamination and that your worst fears have been realised, that the contamination affects the whole of the Ince Central estate.

I understand at a recent meeting between Wigan and Leigh Housing and the Residents Liaison Group, a number of options proposed by Wardell Armstrong were considered. I have had initial discussions with the Council and I have been advised that in addition to option two being looked at in more detail to find out whether this proposal is viable the Council is also examining other possible options.



The final proposals will be put forward in May when there will be full consultation with residents and other interested parties.

As your Member of Parliament I will be examining the proposals carefully and will be concerned to learn what residents have to say in the consultation process. Indeed, I am more than happy to meet with the Liaison Group to discuss residents' views about the options.

I know that whatever solution is finally agreed, additional financial resources will be required to make it happen and that additional money may not be easy to find. However, I can give you an absolute assurance I will work with the Council to find the additional money to carry out the necessary work, meeting the Minister for Local Government Nick Raynsford at the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and government officials if required.

I am acutely aware how difficult it must be for you all facing this uncertainty about the future but in my discussions with Wigan and Leigh Housing, I have been assured that this investigation is its number one priority. I am hopeful that working together we can agree a solution which is acceptable to the overall majority of the community.

I am regularly in Ince dealing with both individual family issues and community matters and my office has built up good relationships with the people of Higher and Lower Ince. In addition to this issue, if you would like my support on any matter, you can always contact me at my Ince Advice Centre that I hold at Ince Clinic and Community Centre, Manchester Road, Higher Ince, every third Friday in the month from 6.30 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. Alternatively you can ring my office on 01942 824029.

The sooner we can get this resolved the better.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian McCartney'.

Rt. Hon. Ian McCartney M.P.,  
Makerfield.