

## Previously Designated KMBC Owned Land adjacent to the current cemetery.

We asked all local councillors to act for us and find planning information which we knew existed regarding the original plans for Whiston Cemetery. i.e. that the land adjacent to the current cemetery was indeed part of the long term plans.

Not one of those councillors answered our questions despite us asking over and over, then out of the blue ...Mike Harden sent an email which was read out/supported by local labour councillors at Whiston Town Council Annual Public Meeting where he accused us of sharing misinformation and inaccurate information regarding our statements that the KMBC owned land adjacent to the existing cemetery was designated for Future expansion of the cemetery.

We demanded an apology at that meeting for the fact that they accused us and removal of those accusations on their web page.

KMBC **did** remove these accusations from their web page, replacing them with very carefully chosen words intended to fool people into believing that KMBC were not lying.

They offered no apology and have continued to deny that the land next to the existing cemetery was ever designated as future cemetery expansion.

They have tried to use semantics to deny the facts, saying no planning permission equals = not "designated". We have now had access to the Public Documents, strangely unavailable on the Planning Portal, that show the truth. We thank the **one** Councillor that was willing to do his duty as a representative of his constituents for pushing to make these Public Documents, public!

### Point 1.

Email from Mike Harden read out to the public Whiston Town Council Meeting "By way of background, planning permission was granted in 1994 for the development of Knowsley Cemetery for an 8-hectare site (to be developed in phases)."

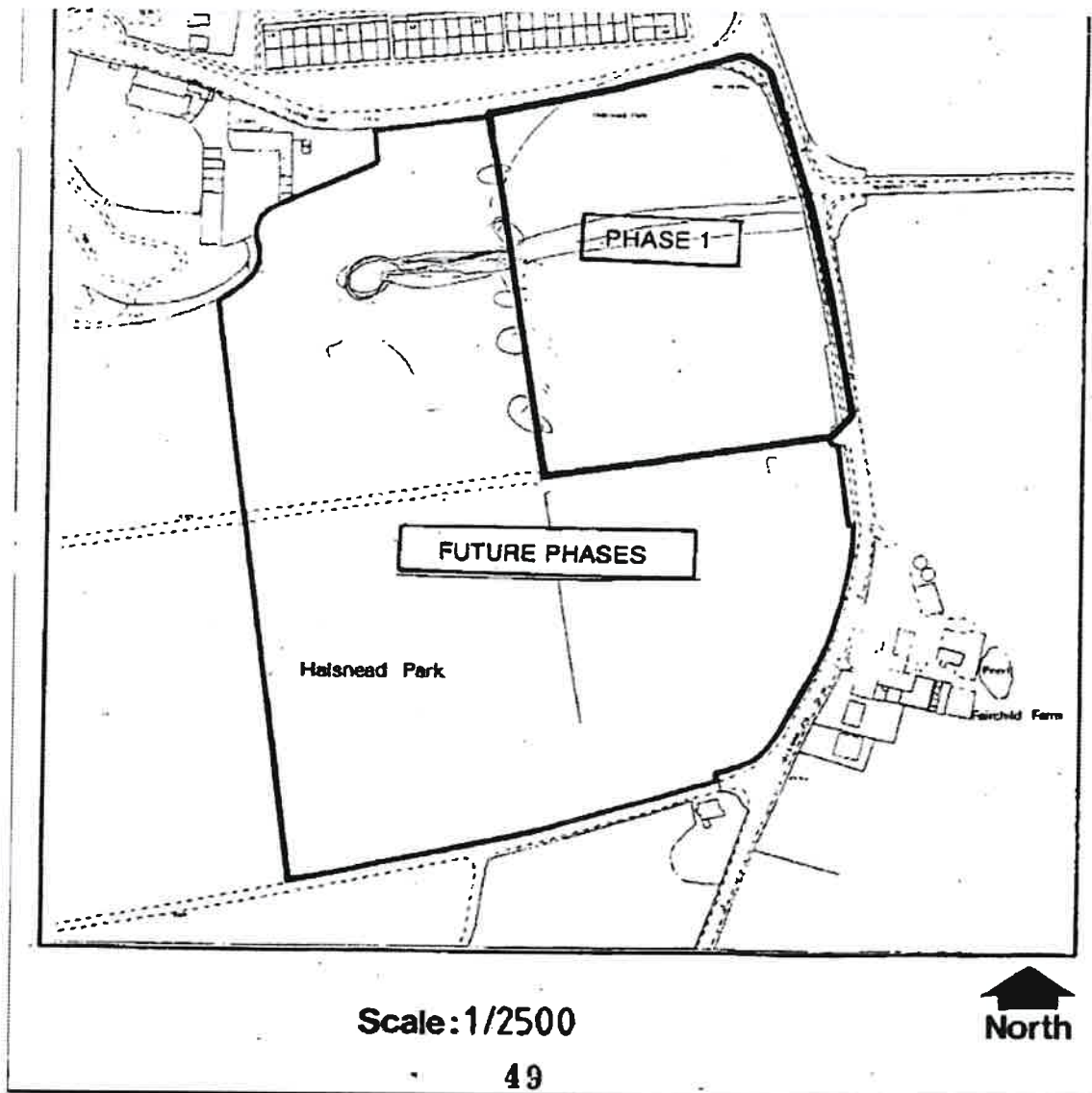
Actually the Report to Committee stated exactly what we have always stated that this would be in "Four Phases", Mike Harding was being economic with the truth to hide facts;

### The Current Proposal

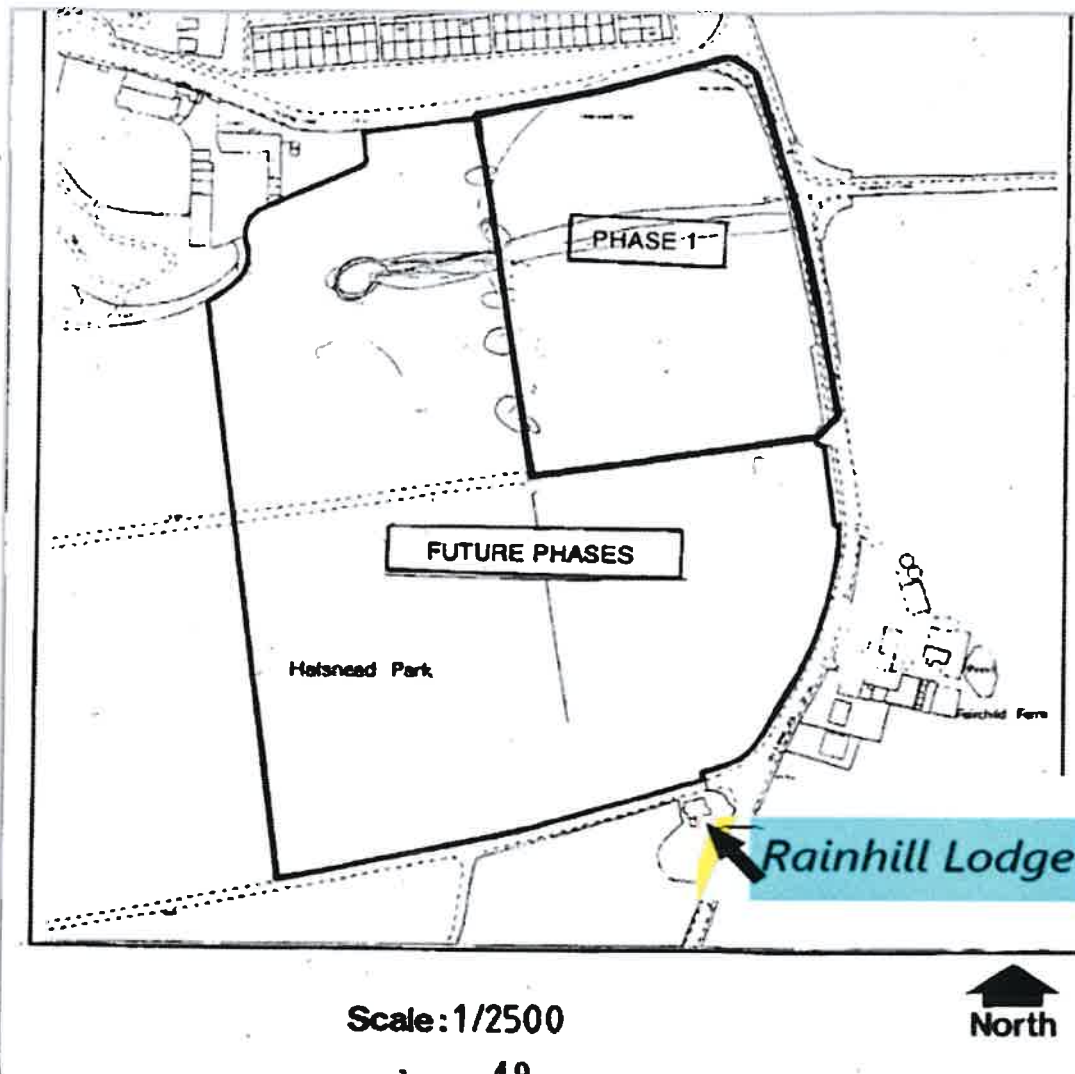
**The proposed cemetery would be laid out in four phases, covering an anticipated life of 100 years.**

Phase 1 showed roughly  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the whole 8ha site therefore any sensible person would conclude that four phases = 4 quarters= whole 8ha site.

Planning Application 1994 clearly shows the extent of the proposed cemetery:



In addition to this the residents of Rainhill Lodge were approached by Knowsley Council Employees during the 1994 application and were told that Phase 4 of the plan, would be directly in front of their property.



49

Having been made aware of this proposed (albeit future) phase, the resident sent a letter, requesting a amendment to the proposed layout, to the Planning Committee which was included in the report;

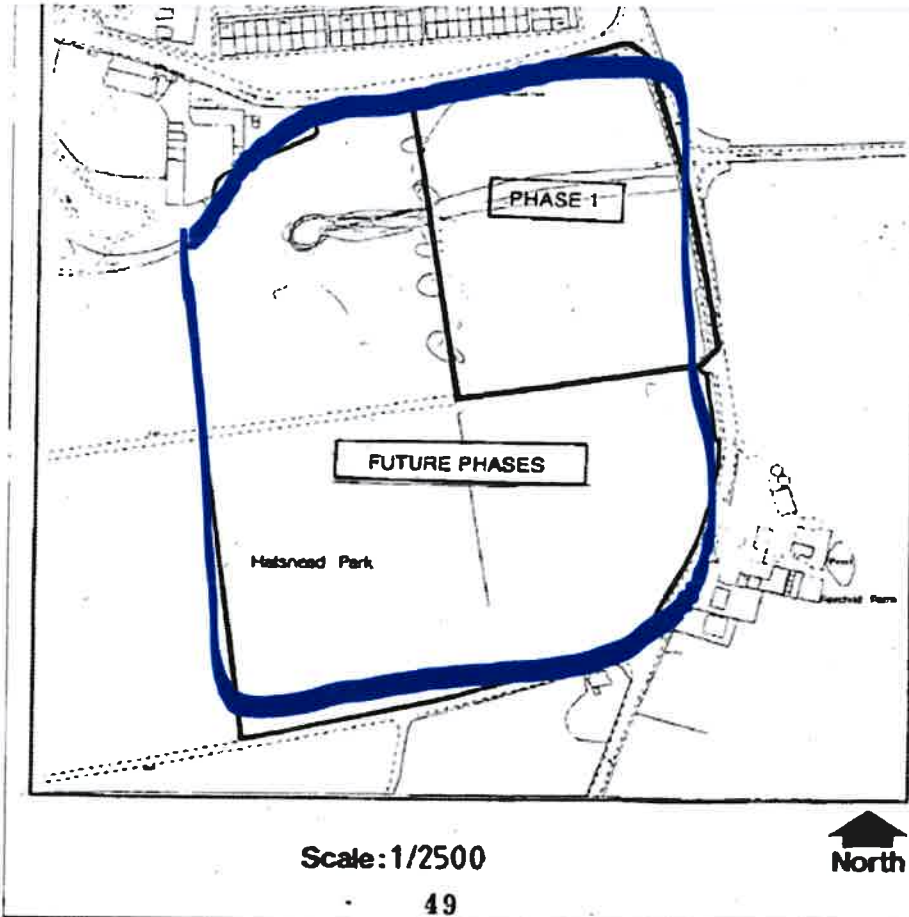
**of property. A further letter has been received from an occupier of Rainhill Lodge to the south of the site, requesting an amendment to the layout to include a 3m wide open strip to the front of her property.**

Clearly the original plan (whether or not planning applications had been submitted at that time) was to use the whole 8ha including right up to Rainhill Lodge.

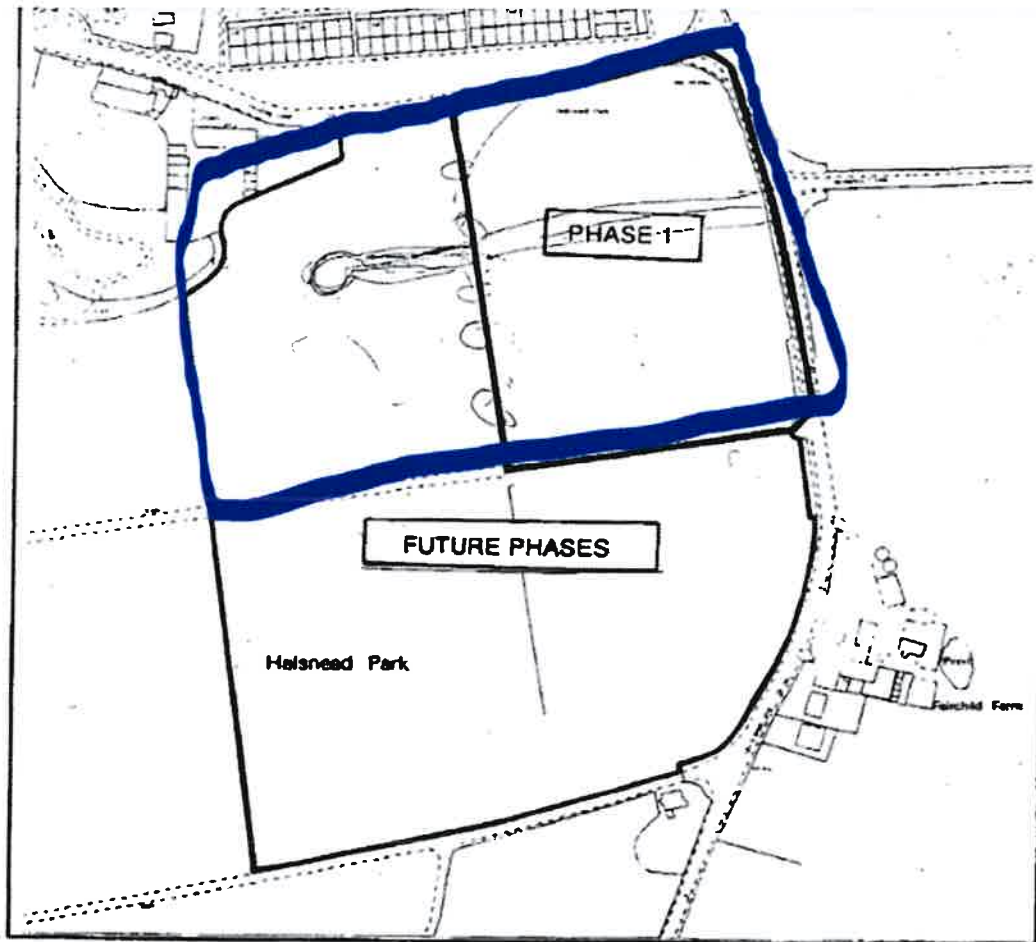
Point 2.

Email from Mike Harden read out to the public Whiston Town Council Meeting "By way of background, planning permission was granted in 1994 for the development of Knowsley Cemetery for an 8-hectare site (to be developed in phases)."

The Original Plan for 8ha Cemetery - in Four Phases - was expected to last for 100 Years. KMBC now say that the cemetery is (almost) full and they need to expand. However, the original plan that was to last 100 years was for 8ha i.e. this whole area:



The current cemetery only uses approximately half of the originally proposed site.



Scale: 1/2500



49

We have asked KMBC multiple times to explain why they will not use the land that was originally set to extend the cemetery but they refuse to enter into discussions or to hold a public meeting to explain this.

There is currently no planning permission on the KMBC owned land, this was originally "designated" cemetery extension land, and since "designated" as part of Halsnead Village Plan. We see no reason why it should not be re "designated" back to it's original purpose.

The land itself is subject to a lease agreement which includes a surrender agreement which all parties are aware of.

KMBC own planning and minutes documents (above) show clearly the intention was to use the whole 8ha for a cemetery to last 100 years. The information below shows that KMBC were not only fully aware of the adjacent land previous designation but also have other plans for this land, highlighted below!

The Published decision of Cabinet Meeting on 13/7/22 states:

"The proposal involves the previously approved funding to enable the purchase of land from the Forestry Commission. The report also proposes an allocation of capital receipts from the sale of existing cemetery designated land in Halshead Garden Village to enable the provision of core cemetery infrastructure which will provide the Council with long term cemetery capacity at Whiston Woods."

We therefore ask Whiston Town Council to:

- Demand an apology from KMBC and the Whiston Town Councillors who have accused us misinformation and inaccurate information in the light of the documents above.
- Represent us and insist that this land be used as originally planned instead of destroying our much needed Local Woodland.

Happy to discuss any of the above in further detail but the documents are public documents.