

Re: Preferred Development Options Plan – South Warrington

I wish to register my objections to the current proposals to build 1800 new homes adjacent to Chester Road, Walton and the planned link road between the A56 and A57.

With regards to the housing development, I cannot understand why any Green Belt land has been included in any building plans as there are more than enough sites available around Warrington to build housing without destroying areas which – by their very nature (in every sense of the word) – have been designated places to be left completely alone. Not only is it a local issue, it is also a global one and fundamental to our continued existence on this planet. Removing Green Belt is simply not sustainable and should never be an option in situations like this.

I also object to the development in the strongest terms over the addition traffic 1800 will bring to a road system which cannot cope with its current levels, so it beggars belief to understand where the extra +/- 3600 private cars and any additional commercial traffic will go. The link road will be of no help to the local traffic getting onto and off this proposed estate, so how exactly does the council foresee this increase being added to the Chester Roads, Walton Road, London Road flow in a manner which will not impinge further on an already stretched system which can barely cope with its current daily demands and becomes totally grid-locked the moment there is an issue with any of the crossings over the Mersey at Runcorn or Thelwall? Residents in the new, small development on the opposite side of the Chester Road are already realising what a challenge it is to get out of there and that is just a fraction of the addition traffic envisaged by this proposal.

There is talk of a school and possibly a health facility being incorporated in this new build, but what else will be provided for residents? Any shops? A community hall perhaps? How about a library? There have been no indications that any of these are to be included, so again I ask the council where are 6000-odd people meant to go for these? Do you really think that the local shops (those that are left) will be able to provide for this extra business? Stockton Heath library has been under threat of closure for a long time, so will this help save it???

Added to these objections is the one about the disruption, noise and pollution that the construction will bring. Are you expecting the endless lines of trucks, diggers, etc to only approach the site from the south along the Chester Road? We all know that it will be coming through Warrington and using the A5060, A49 to Stockton Heath and along the Walton Road part of the A49. How exactly is that going to work and has any thought been given to what it affect local residents? If have a feeling that I can guess the answers to those questions.

Then there is the current “preferred” choice for the link road from the A56 to the A57. It is bad enough to know that of the half-dozen or so proposed alternatives put forward, this was the least practical. The thought that it just coincidentally appears to be exactly what would benefit Peel Ports’ expansion plans for Warrington Port and the links between Liverpool and Manchester just adds to the feeling that this has all been agreed and set-up already, regardless of what Joe Public may have to say about it. I can only imagine what the people who find their houses are to be compulsorily purchased or destroyed must think about this, but I most certainly do not agree with this proposal.

Finally, I may be wrong, but this all looks to be part of WBC’s hopes to make Warrington into a city and a City of Culture at that. PLEASE think again! Liverpool is a city and Manchester is a city. Do you really want to make the whole of this northwest corridor one massive conurbation, like a poor man’s Los Angeles or Mexico City? Get real. Deal with what needs dealing with (pothole ridden roads, care home support, emergency service personnel numbers, etc) and stop spending money which you will never have (unless you plan hiking our Council Tax) on pipe-dreams for your own self-satisfaction.

