



Response to Warrington Borough Council's Preferred Development Option Consultation

With regards to the current proposals put forward as WBC's preferred development option we would like to register our strong opposition to the proposals in their entirety which we believe to be an absolute disgrace. The following provides the basis of our severe objections.

- We have no desire for Warrington to be a "City". Many people (ourselves included) have chosen to live in Warrington because of the "villages" within Warrington and the proximity to open green areas.
- We are extremely concerned about the negative effect these proposals would have upon the loss of leisure facilities for walkers/cyclists . This would be particularly impacted on the popular Pennine Trail which would be directly affected by the Council's proposal for the new strategic road following this route
- We are massively opposed to the construction of the new high level "Strategic" road proposed to follow the route of the disused railway line across the Manchester ship canal cutting through Latchford, Grappenhall and Thelwall necessitating numerous properties to be compulsory purchased and reducing the sale value of those properties also in close proximity to the proposed route but not listed for compulsory purchase.
- We are majorly concerned about the use of any such proposed "Strategic" road being used as a "rat run" from one side of Warrington the other and for the potential for bringing "outsiders" through the town to avoid the toll charges on the imminent new Mersey river crossing at Runcorn.

- It is understood that The World Health Organisation reported in May 2016 that Warrington is the second worst town/city in the North West for breaching safe levels of air pollution. Routing a new heavily trafficked “strategic” road directly through residential areas will only add further to this appalling record and will significantly add to the considerable health risk. It is reported by the WHO that ambient air pollution is the greatest environmental risk to health and causes more than 3 million premature deaths worldwide each year
- We have further major concerns regarding the impact both during construction and afterwards of the new “strategic road” and how this would affect the communities of Latchford, Grappenhall and Thelwall
- Also of major concern is the loss of local green belt area at Grappenhall Heys and Appleton.
- It is understood that there are a wide variety of animals and birds living in the greenbelt areas including badgers, water voles, great crested newts and bats.
- We are further concerned regarding employment opportunities for the residents of the circa 20,000 new homes proposed for the area and the fact that the proposals were made prior to the Brexit decision and what impact “Brexit” may have upon these employment opportunities.
- On a personal note we moved to Grappenhall [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in a peaceful location close to local green belt and walking/cycling facilities. The loss of the green belt and local walking facilities (Pennine trail) coupled with the prospect of a decimated cul de sac community and a concrete monstrosity above us, spewing its health risk of noise and pollution quite frankly fills us with dread.

As such we would confirm our total objections to these proposals and would look to Warrington Borough Council and its planning advisers to look at alternative proposals which do not have such negative impacts upon existing council tax paying residents. With the current proposals many existing Warrington residents (ourselves included) will be seriously impacted either by the massive upheaval of compulsory purchase or a considerable deterioration in the quality of life.

Yours Sincerely

