

Dear Sir/Madam

Warrington Borough Council – Local Plan Preferred Development Option

I have lived in the village of Moore for [REDACTED]. I was attracted to the village due to its location within a Conservation area and “semi rural” location between the industrial towns of Widnes, Runcorn and Warrington. The quiet setting and greenbelt between the village and the outer areas of Warrington with its Conservation area designation gave me comfort that the area surrounding the village would hopefully be protected from development.

I am writing in relation to Warrington Borough Council’s Local Plan PDO and wish to make the following points of objection:

Disappointingly, in writing the Local Plan Warrington have only considered the natural and historic assets within their own borough boundary. The plan has completely overlooked the village of Moore which immediately adjoins the proposed South Western Urban extension. Moore is both a historic village (with a Conservation area and several listed buildings) and also provides a fantastic natural resource enjoyed by residents from Halton, Warrington and beyond. Visitors and locals alike use the footpath network, towpaths and Moore Nature Reserve.

My understanding is that the main purpose of green belt is to prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another – this proposal would entail housing coming right up to the boundary at the eastern side of the village, there would be no green belt left. Moore would be ‘swallowed up’ by huge housing estates with no green belt buffer, merging into one continuous sprawl. It would lose its identity. WBC must know that Psychological research shows that green open spaces, fields and trees have a massive impact on our mental wellbeing. The destruction of these local assets can only impact on future generations. Once they are gone they are gone.

The Port Warrington proposal indicates a large distribution centre with huge warehousing to the north of the Manchester Ship Canal. This development would have a devastating impact on the lives of the residents of Promenade Park as their homes directly overlook this area. My Parish Council tell me that there are 80+ homes on this site and it accounts for nearly a quarter of the population of Moore. The site is beautifully maintained by the residents and is regularly commended by the Cheshire Best Kept Village Judges. The majority of residents have chosen to retire here because of its pleasant, open setting and peaceful environment. Residents need the reassurance that proper assessments will be made before any permissions are granted, together with enforceable control measures, especially in relation to noise and the visual impact of development. I cannot imagine the port would operate on a nine to five basis, so I can only wonder with trepidation the impact it will have locally.

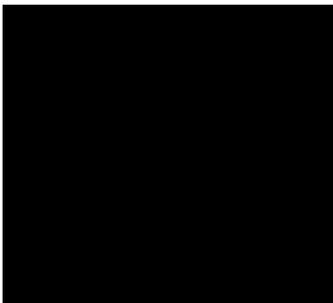
I am also very concerned about the impact of Port Warrington on Moore Nature Reserve which is important for both wildlife and people in equal measure and must be protected for future generations. Commendably, the Nature reserve was developed in the 1980's by Peel Holdings and is now a flourishing habitat for many diverse species of birds, owls, insects, wildflowers and newts. I have regularly spotted owls and bats around the site as well as many species of birds. It is an important educational asset for the region that is regularly visited by local groups such as Cubs, Brownies, Scouts, photography, ramblers and such like. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It is an invaluable resource which is a world away from their everyday lives filled with electronic devices and social media. The loss of this area would have a major impact on the local resources available for groups' educational needs and also on members of the public who travel to enjoy the area's 200 acres of woodland, meadows and lakes.

Finally, from the plans I have seen, all of the proposed developments would have a huge and adverse impact on existing services in the area. For example, my doctor's surgery seems to be struggling to cater for the patients it already has, let alone adding thousands more. I also experience first-hand the local roads that are regularly clogged with traffic, trying to find a route through. Rush hour is bad enough but when there is an accident or break down on the local major roads the entire area grinds to a halt. I simply do not believe the proposals will improve this situation.

[REDACTED] I am dismayed at the disregard for our environment by that very same Council. I just hope that those same children that I encouraged a passion for nature in, won't live to regret the choices that will be forced upon them.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.