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Please find below my objection to the Warrington Local Development Plan:

I live in Stockton Heath and require that Warrington Borough Council scrap the entire Preferred Development Option plan and concentrate on delivering a draft local plan which reflects the true needs and aspirations of the residents of Warrington.

I have grave concerns about the financial stability of the council, after Moody's singled WBC out for a two notch downgrade this week, which effectively constitutes a vote of no-confidence, from an independent body you were very proud to have a previously high rating from. The council must respond on this serious lack of confidence in its finances before any further massive scale investment/borrowing plan can be put forward.

The housing target must be significantly reduced to reflect true local need rather than through any forced, unsustainable growth of the town. Targets will undoubtedly be impacted by Brexit and need to be properly assessed when the Brexit position and impact is better understood. I require an environmentally friendly plan which is genuinely based on community and citizen led needs rather than one which is land speculator / developer led. A plan which respects, protects and reflects our historical and cultural identity, our landscape, greenbelt, green fields and natural habitats and which contributes positively to our health and wellbeing.

For green belt to be built on and forever lost when there are so many brownfields sites beggars belief and will reduce the marketability of South Warrington and devalue it, not to mention the decimation of our wildlife and open spaces. WBC have refused planning consent for many residents on grounds of unacceptable impact on greenbelt land and to disregard this for your own greenbelt-bulldozing plans is quite disingenuous.

Roads, doctors surgeries and hospitals are already at capacity and so much additional housing will make the situation critical.

The best indicator of future behaviour is past behaviour, and there were so many promises when the new Chapelford estate was built to have a new rail station and school... NONE of this has materialised (and no, closing another school to build one in Chapelford doesn't mean you have an extra school... please Google 'net effect'). So I now have absolutely no faith that WBC will be honest or act in the interests of the residents.

The way WBC has conducted itself has been diabolical, but at least consistent - trying to sneak Sandy Lane tip closure through without anyone noticing was the behaviour of a seriously compromised organisation - don't expect faith or credit from the residents you have betrayed.

WBC must scrap the plan and engage with residents transparently on their intentions, finances and conflicts of interest with the likes of Peel Holdings urgently.

