



Dear all

I am writing in response to the current consultation on proposed building/housing development around Warrington (as per this website: <https://www.warrington.gov.uk/localplanreview>)

We are strongly against the proposed development in the South Warrington areas of Higher Walton, Appleton, Grappenhall and Stretton. The proposed plan for development in these areas is not sustainable and should not be proceeded with. Our response is based on the following key issues:

1. Major traffic issues

Traffic through south Warrington is already problematic at peak times as there are only a few main arteries through the area. This is compounded by fact that Warrington is built around a river and has two canals running through it. These are natural traffic obstacles which will always create traffic bottlenecks with even the slightest traffic flow. If any of the motorways have an issue this traffic problem is much, much worse, to the point where the entire Warrington area comes to a standstill.

Adding another 9,000 homes to south Warrington (each potentially adding two cars) is unimaginable. Any potential traffic improvements suggested by WBC to alleviate this will not even scratch the surface of the issue. Huge investment and changes to the infrastructure would be needed and these simply wouldn't be possible given the spending constraints on local government. It would need a construction project along the lines of Thelwall Viaduct to even come close to dealing with extra traffic - i.e. financially and geographically inconceivable.

The increased traffic brings with it negative environmental implications and any traffic management proposals would not only eat into the green belt but are unlikely to have any impact, given that traffic is already an issue without the additional proposed housing.

2. Loss of green belt land

One of our prime reasons for settling in south Warrington as a family was its semi-rural location. We lived in a city for a few years and purposefully chose to move to this area for the green belt benefits. If we wanted to live in a city, we would have moved to a city. The vast majority of south Warrington residents will probably feel the same.

The proposal to build 9,000 homes on this green belt land is preposterous. This isn't a case of "not in my back yard" because if the development was necessary then we could understand it. However, this isn't a necessary development to improve an area in desperate need of improving. Instead you are trying to redefine the area and create an urban environment where it is not needed or wanted.

The green areas in south Warrington are vital in providing leisure and social benefits to residents. We want to enjoy these green areas and we want our children (and their children) to benefit from them too.

It is important to encourage outdoor leisure opportunities for the health and wellbeing of both adults and children. Removal of the greenbelt for urban development is in direct opposition to current government initiatives to promote healthy living and combat rising obesity and other related health issues. Building the occasional playground in a residential development does not make up for the loss of acres and acres of open space and woodland used by families, cyclists, walkers, joggers, children and so on.

In addition, the destruction of habitat for wildlife does not bear thinking about.

3. Access to services (e.g. medical)

The local hospitals and GP and dental surgeries are already stretched to capacity and the proposed development does not address this in any detail. New facilities are promised, but without factual information about these facilities we cannot support the proposal to add 9,000 homes (bringing potentially 27,000 people based on 3 per household) into south Warrington alone. The wider development for the whole of Warrington is for 24,000 extra houses; given that Warrington's Hospital is under possible threat of closure it will be interesting to see how the medical needs of this increased population will be managed!

Local shops and amenities (and related car parking) is already very limited in south Warrington. The newer

