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Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to register my objection to the Preferred Development Option as a resident of South Warrington.

Firstly, I would like to voice my concern over the lack of communication from the council on the detail of these plans. Having attended consultation meetings; talked to council representatives and the local MP; and looked at the maps presented, the detail is still unclear. Many of the maps were poor quality in clearly defining specific areas and responses to questions from residents were vague. There is a clear lack of transparency here which is concerning for an elected body.

Notes provided at the meeting state that *'work carried out to date is suggesting that Warrington has a need to provide a minimum of 24000 new dwellings... and 381 hectares of employment land'*. There is little clarification of what 'work' was carried out and the fact that the possible numbers of new dwellings needed is only a suggestion makes it difficult to recognise this as legitimate data on which to detrimentally change the green belt area and the lives of many forever. Further research (May 2017 report, based on 2014 data) has shown that the figures presented are based on outdated data and the more recent survey highlights a need for less housing per annum.

Secondly, the infrastructure in South Warrington is not adequate for the current number of dwellings, let alone thousands of new homes. The area has specific challenges due to having a number of waterways very close to each other. Having to cross the Bridgewater Canal, Manchester Ship Canal and the River Mersey to travel the few miles into town can take an inordinate amount of time for such a short journey, due to traffic congestion over a limited number of bridges. Surely, increased housing and the prospect of tolls on the new Runcorn Widnes Bridge will only add to the severe congestion already experienced by many.

Having lived in Warrington most of my life I am disappointed to see such a decline in the town centre. There are many disused and dilapidated buildings, the sites of which could surely be used to greater purpose and help create residential accommodation and a vibrant centre, in the way so many cities have recently regenerated. Preserving the particular character of our smaller villages and protecting our green belt, complemented by a vibrant centre would create a Warrington with its own unique character which we could all be proud of.

I am aware that there may be a need for some future development in our town, but I would urge you to reconsider the proposed development in South Warrington. Once our beautiful spaces have been built upon, they are gone for good. That is a huge responsibility and your decisions will severely affect the outcomes, health and well-being of many people, as well as destroying natural habitats and part of the historic culture of our town.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and I hope you will keep me informed of any further proposals.

Yours faithfully,

