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I strongly oppose the Local Plan 2019 currently proposed by Warrington Borough Council

Housing I do not dispute that more affordable housing is necessary. But not the high number WBC is proposing. If WBC were serious about this the planners would concentrate on building smaller 1 and 2 bedroom properties. There are plenty of 3-5 bed houses in all areas of Warrington, but nowhere near enough smaller houses for first time buyers or suitable housing for the growing older and more infirm generations.

Many of the bungalows originally built for retired couples seem to have been hijacked by the advantaged families who have then extended them to form even more 4 bed properties, thus depriving the elderly of homes they need and can afford.

Forecast numbers, even in the highest building years, greatly exceeded historical figures and are unrealistic.

Larger houses obviously mean more people, more cars, more roads and more pollution. In 2016 a report by WHO proved Warrington had the second worst air pollution in the North West. Build all these houses and it could be the first.

Have some consideration for the health of the residents of Warrington. Pollution kills people  
Our doctor and hospital waiting times are too long at present.

Green belt The use of so much green belt for housing, roads and industry is obscene. We criticise other nations for destroying forests and wildlife habitats, and yet this is what WBC is proposing to do to our native wildlife.

I cannot understand why the brown field sites can't be used. According to WBC Brown Field Sites Register there are well over 50 brown sites. Some may be smaller than the space needed to build 5 houses, but many are a larger.

For the smaller sites some forward looking councils are ordering module buildings. Much cheaper to build, less disruption to the local community and less noise and pollution from HGV traffic.

Now it is known that Fiddlers Ferry is due to close due to the outrage concerning climate change, this must be considered as a prime site for regeneration.

The plan need only be for 15 not 20 years. A shorter period would mean fewer houses needed to be built on our Green Belt.

We do not know how Brexit will affect us. But the landowners and farmers who have agreed to sell their Green Belt fields for monetary gain will be helping to reduce the ability for us to grow our own food in the future.

The National Planning Policy Framework Green Belt raises some issues and recommendations:

- 1.To check the unrestricted sprawl of large built up areas. Without green belt this sprawl will spill out into open countryside.
- 2.To prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another. The loss of Green Belt around settlements would lead to their merging with each other. Individual settlements such as Lymm, Culcheth would lose their local distinctiveness and special character.
- 3.To assist in urban regeneration by encouraging the recycling of derelict or soon to become derelict (e.g. Fiddlers Ferry) and other urban land. The urban town centre and surrounding built up area is the most sustainable part of Warrington, where there is an urgent need of regeneration and the recycling of previously developed land.

The fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open for future generations. The essential essence of Green Belts is their openness and their permanence.

No exceptional circumstances have been provided by WBC to release Green Belt land.

Previously developed sites suitable for housing are in urgent need of regeneration.

Moore Nature Reserve The change of use of this wonderful Reserve into storage units is typical of the mindset of giant business corporations, such as Peel Holdings. With climate change at the forefront of the news recently regarding the terrible hurricanes this is just one more way WBC is putting profit before the health and welfare of its residents.

Wildlife The destruction of wildlife habitat is the link between all of the above points and is my personal overriding concern. The Local Plan will have a devastating effect on the local wildlife which struggle enough trying to live alongside an expanding human population. It is our responsibility to take into account their wellbeing and not destroy their natural habitat at the alarming rate WBC seems to be set on.

This plan is not deliverable and is therefore unsound.

Margaret Hedley