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Comments on the Local Plan.
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Whereas I appreciate the need for some new homes to be built, I am totally opposed to the use of green belt and green field sites for this purpose. Taking even more good farming land for the construction of these dwellings is a deplorable idea and would change the character of the south Warrington parishes for ever. The special circumstances necessitating the release of green belt land have not been clearly demonstrated. Furthermore, the type of housing which developers would like to build in a "garden suburb" is not what is required. There are already plenty of homes in the south Warrington area suitable for those in the upper echelons of society. What is necessary is a substantial number of starter homes and social housing. News has come through in the last few days that the Fiddler's Ferry Power Station is likely to close early in 2020. This would provide an enormous brown field site which could be used for house building and a logistics hub.

Many people are very concerned about the increase in traffic which the proposed development would engender. Thousands of new homes with two or more cars per household would increase the amount considerably. Everyone in Warrington knows what a nightmare it can be travelling through the town, especially when there are problems on the M6. We already endure long delays and building on the scale proposed would only add to the problems of congestion and pollution. The town is already known for its poor air quality and this will only be exacerbated if these plans go ahead. The construction of new roads south of Warrington will really not help a great deal and would prove phenomenally expensive in that bridges would be needed to cross the Mersey, The Ship Canal and the Bridgewater Canal.

In addition, the amount of infrastructure required to support vast numbers of new residents seems to have largely overlooked. What exactly are the council's plans for schools, shops, doctors surgeries etc.? Why have the sites for these buildings not been specified nor answers provided as to who is going to pay for them?

The council needs to be more realistic about economic growth in the area. The impact of Brexit is unknown and the town will probably not need a large number of new jobs. The proposals to develop logistic hubs near junction 20 of the M6 is ill conceived. The roads in the vicinity are already busy and a large increase in the number of HGVs would make a bad situation even worse for those wanting to reach the motorway from the existing communities of Latchford, Grappenhall and Thelwall.

In conclusion I would like to express the view that the Local Plan as it stands is not sound for the reasons outlined above. The council would do well to listen to the opinions of existing residents. I have lived in the area for over [REDACTED] years and regularly use local footpaths in the area proposed for development. The loss of countryside near my home would alter my way of life considerably and, as I said to an official at one of the Halliwell Jones events, if the existing plan is adopted I really wouldn't want to live here any more.

Yours very sincerely, Mrs Alison Fox [REDACTED]