

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Local Plan](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Local Plan Proposals - Objection to 2019/34799  
**Date:** 16 June 2019 20:37:43

---

16th June 2019

### **Objection to 2019/34799**

The proposed local plan will shape lives for decades to come it is vital that it is a plan that works for the people of Warrington.

Growth must be managed and sustainable, the public must be able to participate in a meaningful way to decide what the plan looks like.

We cannot accept the local plan as it stands as we believe it is not sound for the following reasons.

The plan only needs to be for fifteen years not twenty this would reduce the green belt needed.

The secretary of state for Housing has said that the government methodology is a starting point, not a target. We should make a case for lower housing numbers in line with the latest population figures and building rates.

At a time when we have seen a national climate change suddenly declared, our town simply cannot afford to lose areas of the green belt. By releasing this land from its protected designation, it risks opening the flood gates to further loss.

One of the better parts of the plan is to regenerate the town center, this involves building houses in the center of the town on Brownfield sites to help our shops and businesses thrive, the best way to guarantee the regeneration of the town center is to protect the green belt.

Warrington river canals and motorways present unique infrastructure challenges. The local plan and local transport plan do not tell us how people from the new developments in the south will get into Warrington.

Costings for the new roads are also questionable also making allowances for health centers, GP surgeries and schools is one thing, but ensuring these buildings become staffed and used is another challenge.

Villages like Appleton Thorn will be subsumed by the new development this together with the loss of green space will destroy the character and environment of our area which must be protected.

The plan has no honesty over air quality, Warrington has the worst air quality in the whole UK for small particulate matter P.M 2.5 (W.H.O. Air Quality Database 2018) This is the most damaging air pollutant as it gets deep into the lungs, heart and bloodstream.

Vague plans to address Victorian M.S.C crossings which would need to bear hundreds of thousands of extra crossings every year. Unrealistic estimates of £50 million to fund a new high-level bridge over the ship canal whilst still in operation.

Is it realistic to build houses before infrastructure with people living in the middle of a gigantic housing development for years without having infrastructure in place?

Finally, the plan does not meet four out of the five criteria for a 'special circumstances' release from green belt:

1. To check the unrestricted sprawl of large built up areas - Not met.
2. To assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment - Not met.
3. To preserve the setting and special character of historic towns and villages - Not met.
4. To assist in urban regeneration by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land - Partially met.
5. To prevent neighboring towns merging into one another - Not met.

Yours faithfully,

Mr E and Mrs G Hankinson