

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Local Plan](#)
Subject: Warrington Local Plan
Date: 14 June 2019 12:00:03

Dear Planning Committee

I am writing to make my objections to the local draft plan for Warrington known to the committee, which has so far failed to address the concerns of the 4,500 local people who objected at the first consultation stage last year.

My grounds for objection:

1. The destruction of the green belt should always be a last resort. Where is the evidence that the planning committee has seriously considered all potential brown field sites available to them? It is an easier and cheaper option for developers to build on the green belt but once the green belt is developed this is irreversible, there is no turning back and it will open the floodgates for further development in years to come. The unique history and flora of this area with its ancient woodlands and ponds, providing home to precious wildlife (herons, buzzards, bats, frogs, toads, butterflies, honeybees) will be lost forever. We are living through a climate change crisis and this ill-thought out plan will only exacerbate its negative effects in South Warrington. Does this plan show a net gain for the area? I doubt it. This plan is unjustifiable.

2. The proposal for a 'Garden City' built entirely on green belt land in South Warrington will be disastrous for the local community because it will totally change the character and landscape of this area – the ancient parishes of Stretton, Hatton and Appleton are separate and distinctive in that they are located on the edge of the Cheshire countryside and they are separate from each other. Under the local plan our countryside environment will become a commuter housing estate joining the parishes together into one conurbation. How do you intend to keep the boundaries of the parishes distinct and separate? Why has the burden fallen so greatly and unfairly on the south of Warrington when other potential sites around Culcheth, Hollins Green and Croft, which have easier access to the motorway network, have been left largely unaffected by these plans? The utilisation of these sites should have been more fully explored to share the burden of development.

3. Air pollution from the increased vehicle numbers on our roads, and dust and noise pollution from heavy vehicles and building sites will adversely affect the local community and impact on our health and lifespan. The quality of our lives will suffer as a result over the next 20 years if this plan is to go ahead. How are you going to address this in a satisfactory way? The rapid pace of the change (i.e. it is intended that approx. 900 houses will be built each year) is undeliverable and the disruption to local people's lives will be intolerable while this building work is going on.

4. Where is the detailed infrastructure plan, (and money available) that will support a housing development on such a large scale? The transport and building plan need to be combined – in one vision, one plan – why are they separate? The building plan is undeliverable without a simultaneous transport plan to support it. But the transport plan is lagging behind the house building plan by years. Surely we can't contemplate building 19,000 houses in South Warrington without a plan to link the people who are going to live in those houses to Warrington town centre and surrounding motorways? As it stands, the residents of South Warrington will effectively be cut off from the town centre by gridlocked roads. We already have significant congestion and resulting air and noise pollution all along the A49 into Stockton Heath at rush hour and when the swing bridge is opened. This will be compounded by the planned Peel Ports expansion and increased water traffic along the Ship Canal.

5. Health provision is a big concern and the negative impact the local plan will have on our health and social care providers, e.g. care homes, social services, GP surgeries and Warrington & Halton Hospital. As far as I can ascertain, Warrington's future health care needs have not been adequately assessed by this plan and any existing provision is made undeliverable by it. There is no NHS plan for the future of Warrington Hospital. How can the planning committee aim to extend the population of Warrington by some 40,000 people without a plan for a new hospital? It is undeliverable and unsound.

In conclusion and for the reasons above, I do not think the draft local plan for Warrington is 'sound'. It is unjustifiable in terms of Warrington's economic and social needs, and should be reconsidered. Warrington council are going above and beyond the Government requirement for housing which, in the current and uncertain climate of Brexit, is a folly. The benefits for the community do not outweigh the resulting destruction of the green belt and the harm to the health, well-being and future of the local community. The hard-working people of Warrington deserve better than this ill-thought out and unworkable plan.

Yours sincerely

Nina Filipek, [REDACTED] Warrington [REDACTED]

Date: 14/6/2019