



Subject:
Date:



Response to WBC Local Plan
14 June 2019 21:46:33

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to strongly object to the Local Plan which Warrington Borough Council (WBC) has released, outlining its planning proposals for the Borough for the next twenty years.

Warrington Borough Council has an extremely important role as guardian of the whole area, a role which must be taken seriously and with great care for its future. There is a need to preserve what is beautiful and good and reinvigorate/redevelop areas which are not working well for local people. I do not believe this plan does that for the following reasons:

- The proposals for vast amounts of building, for both housing and logistic/industrial sites on grade 1 agricultural land is ill-thought out, careless, and pure over-development. It is not a good use of quality land and, clearly, once used is lost to all residents of the area forever;
- Such a vast amount of development on green fields will incur a further loss of habitats for wildlife, fauna and flora which is already suffering from encroachment and traffic pollution. It also risks the loss of both our heritage and natural spaces, i.e. at least one area – the ‘Garden Suburb’ adjacent to the M56, has the ruins of an old Roman road running through it, and the loss of part of Moore Nature Reserve is incredulous.
- I accept that there needs to be development to meet housing shortages, however I would urge WBC to be innovative and sensible in its approach, using first brown-field sites or sites which are currently not productive or an eye-sore. Also, there are many industrial units across the Warrington area such as Woolston and Gemini which have large areas vacant and could be re-utilised and re-developed.
- The numbers of proposed houses needs to be reduced drastically to be more realistic in terms of what the area/infrastructure/schools/doctors can accommodate. The roads and services are already over stretched and struggling to accommodate the current population.
- Air pollution and traffic congestion, both mutually inclusive, are a problem for Warrington. This plan will not ease but exacerbate these issues. I met a man from Salsbury last year who, when I explained where I lived, said “I’ve travelled up to Warrington occasionally and the traffic is a nightmare”. As a town/area is this what we want to be known for?

Ironically, below is the statement from the homepage of the current MP for the area, Faisal Rashid.

“I fell in love with Warrington – the town, its green open spaces, and its people – on my first visit in 1998 and came to live here with my family...”

This plan puts in danger a large proportion of Warrington’s green fields and greenbelt to which the MP refers. As a Council, I urge you to re-think this plan and not to make more mistakes for the town and outlying villages which, if this Local Plan goes ahead, will substantially change the character of this Borough and not for the better.

I also wish to state that I am disappointed with the consultation campaign that WBC has run for the second edition of this Plan. I have not seen any advertising of meetings for the display/discussion of these proposals with local residents. I understand there has been some promotion on social media which is not a forum that encompasses all and in fact can cause

generational exclusion.

Louise Fernyhough (Mrs)

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