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26/04/2019

Dear Warrington Borough Council

I have read the Proposed Submission Version Local Plan for Warrington and I feel very little has changed from the PDO which I totally objected to in September 2017. I had numerous reasons why I opposed your PDO and twenty months later, these objections remain unaltered. These were, and still are, my main concerns:-

- Your plan suggests that a new transport route may be built using part of the Trans Pennine Trail and the old railway bridge. This would cut through well-established communities and thus be very detrimental to the people who live there. The TPT is a very well-used and a very well-loved asset to this community and to lose it would again impact on the well-being of the locals who live nearby.
- Why are Warrington Borough Council and the planners so determined to turn Warrington into a city? Have you asked the residents of Warrington whether they want to live in a city because I'm absolutely sure the answer would be a definite 'no'. Being a town is what makes Warrington a great place to live, and turning it into a city will change Warrington's identity for the worse. Apart from four years at university, I have lived in Warrington all my life and I despair at the way you are all hell-bent on destroying its character. We have two easily accessed cities nearby and don't need another one. Is WBC's desire to become a city encouraging you to overestimate the number of new houses needed and have you really addressed the current economic environment and the availability in the future of further brownfield sites? To preserve what makes Warrington special, the council should only build what is absolutely necessary, and no more.
- Once you have built on the green belt there is no going back, it is gone for good and therefore should only be done as a last resort when all other avenues have been exhausted. The green belt is there to prevent urban sprawl and to stop communities merging together and should be protected. The proposed Garden City suburb will virtually merge Grappenhall with Appleton removing the unique village feel of the area and replacing it with one huge characterless housing estate.
- Warrington and Halton Hospitals can only just provide the healthcare needed by the community at the moment, how on earth will they cope when there are many more thousands of new households in the area. What provision have you made to address this situation or is this just another area where the current residents of Warrington are going to be seriously disadvantaged?
- Finally, and in conclusion, why is South Warrington shouldering the lion's share of this huge expansion, surely it is better and fairer to share the burden throughout the town rather than concentrate it in one area.

The updated local plan for Warrington should be abandoned and the Council should start genuinely listening to the concerns of the local people. Read our letters, listen to what the South Warrington Parish Councils' Local Plan Working Group have to say, and then come up with a sensible level of development and a less harmful way of delivering it.

Yours sincerely

Wendy Farmer