

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Local Plan](#)
Subject: Re:Warrington Local Plan
Date: 21 May 2019 11:38:40

21 May 2019

We write to express our concerns over the proposals to the south Warrington urban extension.

In view of the fact that massive numbers of Warrington residents objected to proposals in the local plan dated 2017, there seems to be little in the way of change to the proposals being set out now in the latest local plan.

Despite the previous complaints and objections our concerns include the large numbers of projected houses and ask how these figures have been calculated? The council seems overly ambitious in its growth predictions with an unrealistic development rate never seen before. Surely new housing should be based on demand after economic growth has been achieved? There are areas in Ireland for example which see current modern new homes left empty as there is not the need nor the demand.

Warrington does not have sufficient workforce needs to warrant this high number of houses. Most people of working age commute out to Manchester and Liverpool both for work and to shop.

On further scrutiny of the plans with emphasis on south Warrington, it seems there is erosion of the green belt with little consideration for the impact on wildlife, habitat, and pollution. With the introduction of houses and therefore increased usage of cars air quality in Warrington and Stockton Heath in particular which is poor to begin with, will inevitably worsen.

The greenbelt boundary was confirmed 5 years ago and was said to be good for 20 years!

Perhaps the most concerning issue is the plan to build 1600 homes in Walton which would TRIPLE its size and would abolish part of the Moore nature reserve.

The south Warrington area is the main target for loss of greenbelt and would be the focus of large developments placed furthest away from the two train stations in our area. That would increase commuter numbers across an already congested town...it makes no sense... the plan is flawed and not sound.

The infrastructure would need updating to accommodate those numbers and the increased workforce travelling across Warrington impacting further the traffic congestion therein.

Warrington is constrained by its geographical location. It is boxed in by the motorway network, restricted by its waterways which makes for limited commuting across the three Victorian swingbridges already overstretched and causing chaos at certain times of the day.

There needs to be infrastructure to support the proposed developments BEFORE work commences on the builds as there will be heavy traffic to supply the various developments right from the start.

The plans will affect so many people's quality of life and general well being as they sit in traffic queues either in the town centre, waiting to cross a bridge, or waiting to get on the motorway where the queues stand still on every week day evening. The plans to extend the facilities of Stobart and Langtree would cause yet more havoc as the queues to join the already congested motorways get even bigger.

The greenbelt serves many purposes including to protect land around urban centres and provides separation of villages and therefore prevents urban sprawl.

It provides areas of beauty to be enjoyed by all and important agriculture and farmland to sustain us. It nurtures wildlife and provides habitat. It captures carbon provides space for water to prevent flooding and protects the water supply.

We should be protecting the greenbelt as a matter of urgency and common sense.

There are other options available rather than destroy our greenbelt.

Perhaps the council should look at brownfield sites rather than take the easy option of using greenbelt?

There is no soundness in the proposals, no justification for predicted growth figures, no clarity over means of delivery.

We strenuously object to the current over-ambitious plans and proposals and request that these be rejected by the council.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J and Mrs K Hilton

