From:
To:
Local Plan

**Subject:** Objection to build on green belt land SHLAA Ref: 1528 / Site Ref: R18/162

**Date:** 23 October 2021 10:21:47

### **Dear Warrington Council**

As an environmental professional, and understand fully the balance required to achieve sustainable, affordable housing. However, I wholeheartedly disagree with the planning of building on Site Refm R18/162 for the following reasons.

#### **Road Infrastructure**

Firstly, the current roads and infrastructure around this area are already overfull, and there are already some high-risk sections that require slow traffic. Adding around 800+ cars to this area would put a lot of pressure on the narrow country roads around this area.

# Long Term School Plan

This plan will surround the school, blocking the children's view of green space and connection to nature every day. Furthermore, the school will then not have any room to expand in future. Where will the children of these houses go to school?

## **Public Right of Way**

The path is used regularly by the community and has been valued even more since the pandemic.

The land is next to a flood plain, which has been vital in defending Lymm and Warrington from severe damage and will be needed more frequently to protect local areas from flooding in future. The current farmland and allotments are ideal use for the land, given the local flooding risks.

#### **Nature**

I was hopeful Warrington would be leading in enhancing areas for nature. The Transpennine Trail is a fantastic corridor for wildlife and people to thrive. Building next to this area will destroy and disturb habitats, especially for the endangered and beloved hedgehog, which are common in the area. I understand the practice of Biodiversity Net Gain, however, I fear the impact of destroying habitats, such as the allotments, will be difficult to replicate close by quick enough. I work for The Wildlife Trust. If you would like to get in touch further I'd be happy to discuss.

### **Destruction and Eviction of Community Allotments**

It is appalling that this development will be taking land away from a community allotment. If we are going to make changes to address the nature and climate emergency, we need to encourage allotments and reduce the disconnect between food and nature and the community. Furthermore, I know many families who will share that that allotment is such a benefit to their mental health, services they would have had to receive from the NHS at a much higher cost to society. The allotment was a lifeline for so many during Covid for mental and physical health and highly valued. I believe you need to recognise the cost and negative impact of evicting 80+ families from community land.

This development plan is not fit for purpose and will create many high costs side effects for the council long term.

Many thanks for taking the time you read our concerns. I look forward to hearing from

you.

Sarah Woollam