

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Local Plan](#)
Subject: MAIN MODIFICATIONS 2023
Date: 27 April 2023 00:00:35

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Dear Sir / Madam

Re: Main Modifications to Warrington Local Plans

As a resident of South Warrington I feel compelled to write in opposition to some of the modifications made to the local plans:

1. REMOVAL OF GREENBELT / BUILDING ON GREEN FIELD SITES

Firstly, and arguably most importantly, a lot of the development in South Warrington is on agricultural and green belt land. The building on green field sites, before using every possible inch of brown field site, and the removal of green belt is wholly unacceptable at all times, but especially given the climate emergency we all now face.

If we weren't aware of it before, the recent BBC series 'Wild Isles' set in the UK spelt out, in very plain language, the sorry state the UK is in. In the last 50 years, 38 million birds have vanished from UK skies, 97% of our wildflower meadows have been lost since the 1930s, and a quarter of all our mammals, including water voles and Greater mouse-eared bats, are at risk of extinction. The nature crisis and climate change are two sides of the same coin, so protecting nature is key to stopping the destruction of our planet and our way of life.

I live on [REDACTED], 10 minutes walk to Lumb Brook Valley / the Dingle ancient woodland and we regularly see and hear all sorts of birds, animals and insects, owls, woodpeckers, bats, kingfishers to name just a few. Losing the greenbelt that protects one side of those woods would be devastating to the wildlife there, destroying habitats and uprooting many of the animals.

The National Trust, the World Wildlife Fund and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds – 3 of the UK's largest conservation charities, with over 300 years of combined experience have come together to use their collective voice to call on all sectors of society in the UK to take action and halt the destruction of UK nature. The Save Our Wild Isles campaign is a serious effort to highlight the importance of nature and how it underpins everything that makes our lives possible, and shows how profoundly threatened it is. These three charities say there is enough of the UK's natural world left to save, but needs everyone – the public, businesses, and our leaders – our councils, to all urgently work together to help, not hinder, it's recovery. Destroying vital, precious greenbelt is a destructive act to be taking in 2023 with all the knowledge we have, and it is our duty to find alternatives. We can be creative and imaginative in our solutions to housing problems, destroying nature is not a viable option and I urge to rethink destroying green fields and removing green belt. I feel the plans need to exhausts brownfield sites before any more fields in Warrington are built up. These areas also absorb CO2 and help with air quality in

Warrington, something that needs all the help it can get.

2. INFRASTRUCTURE

I think anybody who regularly drives around South Warrington would recognise the roads are not built for any more houses as the infrastructure is very poor already. When the traffic is bad on either of the two busy motorways, the M6 & the M56, the area is regularly at stand still, with 'pinch points' at the swing bridges across the Manchester Ship Canal, and Lumb Brook Bridge canal bridge. The addition of more houses and the inevitable cars would be bad for traffic and pollution.

3. COST

Building in the area of South Warrington does not solve the problem of affordable housing, as there are very few house in this area that will be sold for less than £250,000, which very few first time buyers could afford.

4. NECESSITY

These plans are based upon old population figures from almost ten years ago and out of date. Surely we should be asking if the same numbers of houses are needed now that population growth is far lower than it was when these plans were written.

In conclusion I think the numbers of houses planned for a town that was never built or adapted to accommodate such numbers would be disastrous, for pollution levels, for traffic and poor living conditions and most importantly for nature – once we build on our natural habitats it is very difficult to get them back and I urge you to rethink your plans. We need to protect our town, and make it greener, not less green.

Thanks for reading my points, I look forward to hearing from you.

Kate Brown