



25 September 2017

### **Opposition to new housing development in the South Warrington area**

Having viewed the recently released proposed local plan, and attended clarification meetings, I want to express my opposition to the large housing developments planned for the South Warrington area. These developments involve house building on large areas of Green Belt land and would remove the one remaining picturesque area of the Warrington conurbation forever. It is difficult to understand why the planners want to do this to our town and there are certainly alternatives available to meet housing demand.

The town of Warrington is severely congested, a situation that will be exacerbated once the new Widnes to Runcorn toll bridge is opened and there is no longer a toll-free crossing between those towns. Building more housing in the Warrington area will only add to this congestion.

At a more local level the road system carrying traffic from South Warrington through to the town centre is also very congested and the building of more housing will, again only serve to exacerbate this. There is no tram or metro system in Warrington and cycle paths are non-existent in the town centre and most surrounding areas. Clearly insufficient consideration has been given to these issues when drafting the local plan.

The town centre of Warrington does need development. Many buildings have stood empty for many years and the town has a derelict feel to it. This should yield ample opportunity for brown field development but this has not happened. What is the point of building more and more out of town developments while land in the centre is idle? When questioned about this the councilors have put the blame on the private landlords, who apparently own the town centre areas, wanting to charge too highly for their land to be used in developments. Surely there are ways around this that would tidy up the town as well as preserving the Green Belt areas.

I would ask you to formally register my opposition to this local plan and urge planners to take a more holistic view of developments, considering the impact on the town and surrounding areas.

Yours Sincerely,

