





Response to Warrington Local Plan Proposals

Dear Sir,

I am writing about Warrington's Local Plan and your preferred option proposals. Firstly I am very concerned about the huge number of houses that you are proposing. I can see that some are linked to areas outside of Warrington but most of it seems to be south of the town centre. The proposed Garden City suburb and the Waterfront development are much larger and make considerable use of Green Belt land. I thought land around Appleton and Stretton was already put aside for development and I don't know why so much more development is required.

 Omega and Chapelford sites which has changed the area beyond all recognition. However, the airbase there was no longer in use so it seemed a good use of the land. I would like complete assurance that all brownfield land sites have been developed before any more Green Belt land is used, even if this is more costly to use. So I agree with the priority of unlocking major development opportunities in the Town Centre and Inner Warrington whilst addressing existing congestion in the town.

I also agree about the need for improvements to existing roads to address current congestion problems before building any new houses and hope the Council will honour this proposal. Stockton Heath is not mentioned specifically in the document but the impact of the Garden City Suburb and the Warrington South West Extension on this area will be enormous. The traffic lights at the junction of the A49 and the A56 in Stockton Heath are already operating at capacity and the A49 flowing through the village is frequently at a standstill. Also, the bridge under Lumbrook, with its one way travel, can cause great hold ups in the morning and evening. What proposals have you for traffic movement in Appleton if you are building further there? I travel to work in Warrington every day and the traffic flow really impacts on my journey time.

The proposals also suggest the use of the old railway embankment and bridge to the west of Latchford Locks as a new strategic transport route.  I would like to know more about this, particularly its impact on pollution and noise. Would this really help with traffic problems because when there is a problem on the motorway, traffic through Warrington is often at a standstill.

I am also worried about the impact of this plan on health care especially the hospital and its capacity to cope with the needs of our current population.

I agree with the proposal to include two country parks but am not quite sure where these will be. My family enjoy visits to Moore Nature Reserve. Is this one of the Country Parks you refer to? I understand that development will take place around Moore Nature Reserve. I know that Peel Holdings, who hold much of the land around the Nature Reserve, are keen to sell or develop the land for commercial use and I hope they are not putting undue pressure on the Council.

I agree with the proposals regarding areas of green linking corridors but want to make sure that ancient woodland would not be destroyed and that an impact survey on the environment to protect all our wildlife is undertaken.

You have said that you are not trying to get city status for Warrington but I am not convinced of this. Your proposals will have a huge impact on Warrington and I am not sure that such a big change is really needed.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my response.

Yours faithfully

