Dear Sir / Madam

I am writing to express my concern about the Council's Preferred Development Option for Warrington, and to object to it in the strongest possible terms, particularly the Garden City Suburb in Grappenhall and Thelwall.

Firstly, I assume the projected requirement for 22,260 homes over the next 20 years is to satisfy the Council's desire for Warrington to become a city. Why does Warrington need to be a city? And should Warrington residents not be consulted about becoming a city? I am yet to meet ONE resident from the area who wants Warrington to be a city. We live in close proximity to two thriving North West cities. Would investment and planning not be better directed at making Warrington town centre a pleasant, busy and successful place to live, work and visit?

Traffic in the area is already a complete nightmare, and it only takes one incident on the M56 or M6 to bring the area to a standstill. Warrington has an appalling pollution record, according to the World Health Organisation, only Salford ranks worse in the North West. How is the area going to cope with 40,000 more cars?

But what horrifies me most about the PDO is the casual assumption that building 9000 homes on Green Belt land is acceptable. It isn't. At the consultation at the Park Royal hotel we were told that GB land can be released in "exceptional circumstances". I'm yet to hear or read anything exceptional about these circumstances.

The GB land in the area serves the purpose of keeping villages separate and preventing urban sprawl. It's a beautiful area, home to all manner of wildlife - herons, buzzards, newts, hares and badgers to name just some. It's the lungs of the area and provides children, walkers, joggers, cyclists, ramblers and many others (not just those from the immediate area) with space to breathe. It's not spare land to build on if the Council fancy it.

Once Green Belt land is built on, there's no going back. That will be it. What an appalling legacy that would be for this Council.

Yours faithfully