

I am writing to oppose Warrington Borough Council's Preferred Development Plan for the 'Garden City Suburb' and 'South West Extension'.

My partner and I have recently moved to [REDACTED] Stockton heath. We chose this area as it has a similar village feel from the area we grew up, in and around Great Budworth.

We wanted somewhere with restaurants and bars nearby, amenities such as sports facilities and shops a short drive away but also within walking distance of fields, the canal and open countryside which is very important to us as we enjoy the outdoors. We also love Walton Hall and Gardens, and although it can be quite busy during school holidays and bank holidays this does not stop us going any time of year.

We are planning on having children soon and thought the area was perfect to bring them up in as there are good schools located close by and the area has a very strong sense of community and a family feel.

Although there is already significant traffic congestion in this area, it is well known and we avoid if possible.

Our objections to the preferred development option are as follows:

- If significantly more houses are built in and around the area then we feel that Stockton Heath will just become another part of Warrington's urban sprawl and will lose all of the character that made us decide to spend the next part of our lives living here.
- In having built up areas instead of footpaths (especially in the area by Red Lane) would definitely put us off staying in the area in the long term and consider moving somewhere like Knutsford where it is similar to how Stockton heath is currently.
- We already suffer with traffic congestion in the local area and new houses would make this uncontrollably worse. There is nothing I have seen in the plan that would be able to ease the congestion created by all of the new homes proposed (again as the area just by Red Lane is near our house, what would the plan be to ease congestion along that road in particular?)
- The essence of what attracts couples and families to Stockton Heath will be ruined by encompassing the area with more new homes. As such we and I am sure many others would consider leaving.
- Greenbelt land should only be released for development in exceptional circumstances. There are lots of other areas to develop so why is green belt land being used? This is a fantastic area that will be changed forever if this plan goes ahead.
- Why are there not more areas in the North East and North West of Warrington being considered for development? I accept that there will have to be some new homes built in South Warrington but if some of the current allocation in this area was more fairly allocated to other areas around Warrington the impact on Stockton Heath and Walton would not be so severe.