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Dear Sirs

I want to express my disgust at the way the residents of South Warrington have been treated with respect to the above consultation. Whilst it has become the norm in society for consultations to be merely a 'lip service' exercise, never have I seen this so blatantly done as with the above consultation. The first time I was even aware of this PDO was on chance sight of a poster in the local Co-op where I 'park' my bicycle, sometime in mid-August. This is clearly not a consultation but a decided plan which it was hoped would be sloped through without anybody noticing in the summer holidays.

That aside, my principal objection to the PDO is simply the use of Green Belt land for development and housing. This is just unacceptable – what is the point of labelling land Green Belt if you are just going to come up with plans to develop it? I chose to live in this area because of its beautiful Green Belt land and open areas – I use these areas frequently for walking and cycling and many residents and friends in the area do similar.

The second objection is to do with traffic and air and noise pollution. The area is already gridlocked with traffic due to its proximity to the M6 and the M56. There are frequently accidents on both of these motorways and constant standing traffic on the M6 at certain times which then gridlocks Stockton Heath and Warrington. Building 7000 new houses in the area is going to make this much worse. I am not aware of any plans to widen the M6 or M56, in fact, Thelwall Viaduct can't be widened. Upgrading slip roads or adding another junction will just create more traffic and more chaos. The area is already over crowded with only one main road into Stockton Heath and one antiquated bridge (the swing bridge in SH). This plan is ridiculous to the extreme – the area would struggle to accommodate the proposals for a few hundred new houses at Stretton or Grappenhall Heys in areas already earmarked for future development.

I am a cyclist and the roads around here are already a dangerous place to be – my partner was nearly knocked off his bike at the roundabout on the A49 recently. Part of your plans involve removing a lovely cycle track, the Trans Pennine Trail and there seems to be no consideration for the high recreational use and health benefits of residents using this and surrounding green areas. The plan would also destroy the lovely lanes around Appleton Thorn and Grappenhall, which many cyclists use and wipe out the green fields around those areas. The people making this decision on the Council don't even live here, I understand and the person heading up the proposal will create chaos and destroy villages and then move on.

Then there is the issue of Stockton Heath. I have lived here approximately [REDACTED] years and I have noticed even in that time how much worse the traffic situation in SH is. There is regularly standing traffic on the A49 pumping out exhaust fumes at all times of day and evening, even when the M6 is flowing. Bridge Foot roundabout is regularly backed up and going in to Warrington is just a nightmare, so one tends not to bother. Even going into Stockton Heath is now not appealing as there is no parking and it takes ages to get in down the A49. The PDO will do nothing to alleviate this and will make it worse due to increased numbers of cars.

I very strongly object to this PDO – it is a simple message – GREEN BELT means GREEN BELT. The National Planning Policy Framework and the Conservative Manifesto in 2015 clearly stated that ministers attach great importance to the Green Belt and will maintain existing levels of protection. In March 2015, the Prime Minister declared that protecting the Green Belt is 'paramount'. In 2016, Sajid Javid stated in Parliament, that Green Belt is absolutely 'sacrosanct'. I really don't see why we should accept politicians lying to us – it has been stated that Green Belt land will be protected and can't be developed, this should be adhered to and not subject to corruption and money considerations. Warrington BC should follow the Governments stated principles on this.

Yours faithfully

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