

Planning Policy & Programmes  
Warrington Borough Council  
New Town House  
Buttermarket Street  
Warrington  
Cheshire  
WA1 2NH

[REDACTED]  
**Date:** 27 September 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

**Warrington Local Plan  
Preferred Development Option, Regulation 18 Consultation, July 2017**

Thank you for referring the above document to the [REDACTED] for consultation. We would like to make the following comments:-

**Gypsies and Travellers**

We wish to be consulted on the proposed arrangements for disposal of foul and surface water drainage, prior to removing the Pennington Lane, Collins Green site from the Green Belt and formally allocate it as a permanent Gypsy and Travellers site.

**Preferred Development Option**

The preferred development options in the local plan have the potential to impact several watercourses, ponds, wetlands, local wildlife sites and the priority native species that inhabit these important habitats (e.g. Moore Nature Reserve). As part of any development proposal, we would expect to see these important habitats conserved and enhanced for the species that depend on them. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), paragraph 109, recognises that the planning system should aim to conserve and enhance the natural and local environment by minimising impacts on nature conservation and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible. This contributes to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures. Article 10 of the Habitats Directive stresses the importance of natural networks of linked habitat corridors to allow the movement of species between suitable habitats, and promote the expansion of biodiversity. River corridors are particularly effective in this way and such networks and corridors may also help wildlife adapt to climate change.

**Next Steps**

Once the options are agreed, then further consultation should take place on the site specific projects, to identify threats to the water environment (WFD status), opportunities for improvement and appropriate mitigation measures put in place. This

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should be picked up in the Habitats Assessment, which is indicated as one of the next steps.

I hope these comments are useful to you and I look forward to consultation on further local plan documents.

Yours faithfully

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[Redacted contact information]