

The Parish Church of St Wilfrid, Grappenhall

www.stwilfridschurch.org.uk



Date 28.9.17

To Mr Andy Farrell

I am writing on behalf of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall in response to the proposed Local Development Plan for Warrington. In particular we would like to make several points that pertain to the direct effects of this plan on Grappenhall and also to the wider implications for Warrington.

- The implications for Grappenhall are huge, 7,000 more homes multiplied by at least 2 people in each equates to 14,000 people with a possible two cars per household could mean around 14,000 more cars on the roads.
- The motivation for building homes in this area is perceived to be financial rather than practical and sustainable. Both the developers and the council will benefit from building large homes on Greenbelt land which will be in a high band for Council Tax.
- We are dismayed at the proposal to build on the Greenbelt. We have long been aware that there is land designated for building and have expected some development of that land. However the loss of Greenbelt is irrevocable and is disastrous for the health and well-being of the population, the protection of wildlife and the beauty of the landscape. Government clearly states that this land should only be used if all other options have been explored and exploited and we do not believe to be the case. It does not benefit the people of Warrington if areas of beauty and recreation are taken away from them in the name of progress.
- Grappenhall is an important Conservation Area where people are part of a community with deep roots and a sense of its heritage. St Wilfrid's Church has been a place of worship for over 800 years at the heart of the community, and it has a very active congregation – with standing room only for some popular services. St Wilfrid's "outstanding" Primary School has been educating the children of Grappenhall for over 100 years – it has over 400+ children and demand for places is ever growing. There are already significant problems with traffic and parking in Grappenhall Village which the council has done nothing to address in the plan.

- At the consultation meeting it was stated that the Council had looked for areas to develop which had the infrastructure to support such development and also for an area that would not be significantly changed in character. We believe that the character of Grappenhall will be compromised and changed by the present plan and that we do not have the infrastructure to support such a huge influx of people and traffic.
- We believe that any Planning Policy should support the development of Communities, with their need for community buildings to house local voluntary organisations, places of worship, local shops, restaurants, pubs, sports facilities, hotels, conference facilities, schools, libraries, health facilities and a diversity of housing to accommodate young people, families, older people, people with disabilities, care homes etc. The plans do not sufficiently address these needs.

In short we do not support the plan in its present state. We are dismayed at the lack of consultation in Grappenhall and the statement that there was nowhere that could house such a consultation, an excuse that is patently untrue. We hope that the strength of feeling expressed by local residents and organisations will have a bearing on the eventual outcome of the consultation and that the Council will not put profit before people.

Yours sincerely

