



20 September 2017

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

Email 

Dear Sirs

Warrington Borough Council Local Plan. Preferred Development Option Regulation 18 Consultation

I wish to object to the current Preferred Development Option for the following reasons:

- “Public consultation” without adequate advertising and held throughout peak holiday season. We only found out when a concerned neighbour called – as was the case with many residents in the locality.
- Public consultations being held prior to the infrastructure feasibility study results being completed and published. Council representatives have been unable to answer whether the feasibility study is taking place on all 5 reported options or just the preferred development option.
- Use of outdated and unclear maps when presenting plans at the public consultations.
- Conflicting answers have been given to the same questions asked at the Lymm and Stretton public consultation meetings. If representatives are unable to get the council’s message across consistently, what hope does the public have to digest and comprehend the limited information being supplied?
- Misleading of the council to let the public to believe that the volume of housing required is something set by Government when it is WBC who have calculated the volume requirement.
- Unreasonable of the council to base calculation of the housing requirement on figures produced:
 - pre-Brexit announcement
 - when it was believed that the HS2 line would require a stop in Warrington
 - recent Government announcement of revised housing requirement calculation methodology.
- There is enough Brownfield land in the area to build 15,000 houses. Potentially enough to meet a reduced housing requirement. Therefore allowing the council to protect and preserve existing green belt land.
- Majority of the proposed housing to be located in the least densely populated and more expensive areas of the town. Unaffordability but high council tax implications. No suggestion of “affordable housing”.

- 2016 study by the World Health Organisation Warrington was recorded as having the second highest air pollution levels in the North West. Impact on health and mortality. Why would the Council wish to increase this further?
- While it may appear convenient for the council to repurpose the railway embankment considerations:
 - state of disrepair of the high level bridge
 - integrity, form and strength of the embankment
 - destruction of wildlife/protected species habitats
 - Heritage and preservation of local history e.g. Knutsford Road bridge cited in the Unitary Development plan as being of significant local, architectural and historical interest.
 - Destruction of TPT amenity which is currently a well-used nature path utilised by walkers, runners and cyclists and part of the National Cycle Route Network
- Considerable blight to surrounding houses and neighbourhoods and destroy the community feel which attracts and retains residents in the areas around Warrington.
- Indication of link road to make use of TPT where it cuts across Weaste Lane and adjoining fields poorly thought out as affects established housing and community. We were told at Lymm meeting that this “wasn’t definitive” and line had just been added by “someone with a felt tip pen”. Also told the Council has no money for compulsory purchase and compensation – so why arbitrarily put a line through this area to represent road.
- The consultation and online documents do not adequately explain what happens with the ‘strategic transport route’ once it reaches the bridge at Wash Lane.
- The ‘strategic bus route’ over Cantilever Bridge does not consider inadequate weight limit of that bridge. Who will pay for the essential upgrading, ongoing maintenance and basic caretaking of this bridge?
- PDO document attempts to justify why Option 1 has been discounted and why Option 2 is the preferred? No mention of options 3, 4 or 5?
- Representative at the Stretton consultation said that Warrington Hospital is fully involved however they appear to have now been sent away to decide how best to fragment services. Increased population will place a significant burden on an already over-stretched and under-resourced service.
- What about secondary care? National shortage of general practitioners. Community carers..... Hospital prevention teams..... mental health practitioners etc?

In summary, my objections are strong and in keeping with the spirit of all concerned residents of Warrington and the surrounding areas.

Yours faithfully

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