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Response to Warrington Borough Council's Preferred Development Option

I wish to register my objections to the Preferred Development Option, which would create a Garden City Suburb in South Warrington.

In your literature you state that the plan is to “safeguard the environment” and that “the vast amount of green belt will remain”. You also state that the purpose of green belt is to “check unrestricted sprawl of large built up areas” and to “prevent neighbouring towns from merging” and to safeguard the countryside from “encroachment”.

The proposed development seems to be in conflict with all these stated aims.

It also does not seem to have taken into account the contents of the Appleton Thorn Ward Neighbourhood Development Plan. The “character of the village“ would be lost if such large-scale development took place. We would lose our spirit of community as we were drowned by Warrington's urban sprawl. These are not the “small scale developments” envisaged in the NDP, which should be of “low impact”. The “landscape“ and “setting” of the village would be seriously endangered by the development outlined in these plans. In no way would this Option “protect and enhance open spaces” – it seeks to remove them.

You state that these plans are your “economic aspirations as a council”. I feel that you are neglecting the social aspirations of the community that you represent. You begin your considerations with the premise that we want to live in a city suburb; when, overwhelmingly, you will find that we want to live in the semi rural area where we have made our homes.

You also assume the people of Warrington have no objections to losing the amenities of the green belt in the south of the town.

I feel the considerations and wishes of Warrington residents have not been taken into account in any measure in these plans but they are rather the aspirations of a council wanting to extend and develop its status.

