

29/09/2017

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

Dear Sir / Madam:

We wish to submit the following document in order to object to the current proposed PDO (preferred development option) for the enclosed reasons:

Inadequate consultation

We do not feel that the plan itself has been adequately consulted on. The information we have been provided about this PDO has all been as a result of residents sharing information and campaigning. There has been a lack of communication around the consultation from the start. Any documentation posted through the door as been shared a little too late in the day. This may have been a strategic decision.

We have looked at the information on the Warrington Borough Council website. We have found it difficult to understand the maps, the wording used to describe the options and the technical jargon that litters the documents. We have tried to complete the consultation online but we do not understand half the questions as they are not written in layman terms. To be completely frank the consultation and engagement has been shocking.

Volume of housing

We believe it is misleading of the council to let the public believe that the volume of housing required is set by the Government.

The volume of housing calculated by WBC has been done when the HS2 line would require a stop in Warrington and prior to the Brexit announcement. In addition, the Government has announced a revised housing requirement calculation methodology, which has not been taken into consideration. We believe therefore the volume of housing is unnecessary and miscalculated.

Greenbelt and environment

We are most concerned around the impact this option would have on the environment itself. Loss of habitat, recreational areas, natural flood plain (surface water and critical ordinary watercourses) and decreased air quality are just some of the concerns I have. Once the greenbelt is released we cannot get this back. We all have a duty to protect the environment for future generations as our elected council this is a key part of your role. We do not believe that enough has been done to look at other sites for development to warrant release of the greenbelt.

The destruction of parts the Trans Pennine Trail would have a huge impact on the local area and people within it. This is a huge positive for this part of Warrington and brings people to the area, both to visit and live.

Infrastructure

What consideration has been given to the infrastructure in Warrington itself? We feel the knock on effect of problems on the motorways surrounding us can affect the traffic in the town for hours after. Even with improved roads in the town, there will always be a bottleneck. We have not seen any evidence to show that this has been adequately modeled.

What plans are there to provide adequate schools, doctors and dentists in the local area? There are already pressures in these areas to begin with. The extra housing if approved will require a significant investment. We have not seen any evidence that reassures us that this will be adequately addressed.

We live around these areas for a reason, countryside, open spaces and for our children to breath in clean air. We do not to be become a city!

Thank you for reading our objections.

Regards

