



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

29<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my objection to the Preferred Development Option currently proposed by Warrington Borough Council.

I feel that I have no alternative than to object to the Preferred Development Option as I have not been fully informed as to the details of the plan. This was due to a badly advertised, uninformative and wrongly timed public consultation period.

- With regard to the right to participate I refer you to: Article 6 of the Directive 85/337. Also the Aarhus Convention.
- "If a consultation exercise is to take place over a period when consultees are less able to respond, e.g. over the summer or Christmas break, or if the policy under consideration is particularly complex, consideration should be given to the feasibility of allowing a longer period for the consultation" (*Landmark Chambers: Sept. 2013: Halebank PC v Halton BC*)

I knew nothing of the Proposed Development Option until late August when details of it began to circulate on social media. I feel that Warrington Borough Council put very little effort into advertising details of their Preferred Development Option or the Public Consultation Meetings. I feel that for a development of this scale the council should have attempted to inform every household within the Borough with a leaflet/brochure through letterboxes.

I found the public consultation period to be wrongly timed. It was held over the summer holidays which is a time when I and many others take valuable time away from work and compulsory schooling to spend with family. This is a basic human right. It is not a time when people would be wanting to give up their precious time to consult over council plans. The consultation period should have run for a longer period and should have had more than one meeting in each of the towns communities to enable those that may have been on holiday to attend.

Fortunately for myself one extra public meeting was held at the Park Royal Hotel which I could attend, not that it was much use. The queues were out of the door and I was waiting for around 30 minutes to get inside. Once inside it was very uncomfortable. The room was

hot and packed and it was very difficult to see the displays with some people scrambling around on their knees to see the information provided. I found this information to be extremely inadequate. Maps were blurred and out of focus and so it was difficult to see exactly where the plan was effecting. There was very little written documentation and the representatives from the council were not very knowledgeable of the subject. Lots of questions were answered with "Don't Knows" or a dismissive shrug of the shoulders. All in all, it was very confusing and I came away knowing nothing more than what I went in knowing. I would like to add that I feel that there was very little in place to aid the elderly or the disabled to participate in the meetings. As I mentioned there were long queues but no chairs provided and the maps/displays were so badly placed and the room so busy that it was difficult for most people to see let alone the elderly or a disabled member of society.

Due to the above reasons, I could not forward any positive suggestions towards the Preferred Development Option. I believe that the entire plan should be scrapped and re-started with adequate public consultations resulting in a more community led Development.

Kind Regards,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.