

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to formally register a protest in the strongest terms possible to the Local Plan which involves the development of several areas of south Warrington. I am a long term resident [REDACTED] of Higher Walton and one of the main reasons we chose to live there is because of the beautiful surrounding Green Belt land. As I understand it, your proposed Local Plan will destroy much of this Green Belt land and completely change the landscape of the area, impacting on residents, visitors to the area and of course wildlife. Whilst I understand the need for new and affordable housing I am not convinced that this need demands Green Belt land to be destroyed when there are perfectly good alternatives available. My understanding, as limited as it may be, is that Green Belt boundaries should only be changed in exceptional circumstances; I simply do not understand how the Local Plan can include such changes to Green belt boundaries when there are many Brown Belt areas that are perfectly accessible and adequate in area to accommodate the additional housing needs. Destroying Green Belt land simply cannot be justified when suitable alternatives are at hand – there are no “exceptional” circumstances evident at all.

In addition to the loss of Green Belt lands per se, I have many other concerns related to the Local Plan:

- The likely impact on traffic congestion will be highly undesirable. Warrington and the surrounding area is already a gridlock zone at most times of the day and to add to this by further road building, as the plan will require, will be an unmitigated disaster
- The Green Belt area is frequented by many visitors during the weekend and all through the summer months; my home is very close to Walton Gardens and I witness the influx first hand. The implementation of the Local Plan as proposed will most likely have a detrimental economic effect by reducing the number of visitors due to the loss of Green Belt land

- Proximity and ease of access to the existing Green Belt land provides local residents and visitors alike with an opportunity to relax and to restore oneself after the rigours of our all too busy schedules; I strongly believe that the opportunity to walk through the beautiful landscape as it is today provides a real health benefit to those that choose this form of relaxation. Loss of the Green Belt by absorption into a huge urban landscape will in my opinion have a negative impact on the health of those who enjoy our countryside

I reiterate that I am 100% opposed to the proposed Local Plan and urge that you reconsider the draft. There are lots of suitable alternatives available that will provide for the extra housing needs – please adopt those alternatives that have the less impact on the beautiful Green Belt area that is so thoroughly enjoyed by locals and visitors. Utilise the Brown Belt land to satisfy the needs, not the Green Belt land – the very definitions of what constitutes “Brown” and “Green” Belt land inherently indicates that this is the right thing to do. Finally there is a suspicion that the Local Plan is in part driven by a perceived need to change Warrington from a town to a city. In my experience of talking with young and old residents of Warrington I do not observe any motivation for such a change; rather there is a strong desire for the town status to be maintained but for the town itself to be made a much more attractive place to visit.

Yours sincerely,

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