

I am writing in response to the Council's Preferred Development Option document that is currently open to consultation.

I am appalled that large areas of greenbelt land in Lymm and surrounding villages are being considered for development.

I live in a house that backs on to land east of Crouchley Lane. I believe this is referenced in your documents as site R18/076 and an SHLAA reference 2901.

Your Greenbelt report published in Oct 2016 stated that this land makes a strong contribution to the greenbelt so I am surprised it is even being considered for development of 240 homes.

We purchased our house in 2011 to provide our children with a safe and beautiful place to live in the countryside. The historic village of Lymm was the obvious choice (as we had visited as tourists to the dam and village previously). Two of our children are deaf, so having a calm and peaceful garden to play in is essential for their wellbeing. I strongly feel this would be compromised if homes were to be built on the fields directly adjoining our garden.

Building on this particular piece of land would not only destroy the stunning views from our house and those of all the other houses that back onto this plot, it would be stealing those views from many future generations to come. I strongly believe the value of coming home to an incredible countryside view shouldn't be underestimated; we've worked very hard to be able to live somewhere we can wind down at the end of the day with rolling countryside to look at and this has an enormous impact on our health and wellbeing. If any development were to take place, the houses on the farthest reach of it would inherit the southbound landscape views of rolling countryside, effectively stealing them from current owners and selling them to the highest bidder.

The wellbeing aspect is not just about the view either. There is a public right of way through the fields that we use regularly to walk our dogs. My children love doing nature hunts down this path, collecting conkers, learning about the crop cycle of the plants in the field, and watching out for the lambs and other animals. This would be lost if development were to take place.

I have several other concerns about the practicalities of trying to develop this plot of land:

#### **Access**

Trying to create access via Crouchley Lane to this plot would be extremely detrimental to the surrounding area. The road is a narrow country lane without pavements and has a sharp bend. There would need to be considerable work to make this a suitable access point and it would inevitably involve destroying a huge number of mature trees and hedgerows to the detriment of the local wildlife. Houses on the current Lymm rugby club site have already been approved so there is already going to be an increase of traffic in that area.

Access from the other side of the plot (via Higher Lane) would be just as problematic. As one of the major access routes into Lymm, it is an extremely

busy road already. Adding another 240 houses would increase the amount of traffic on it enormously. There are no safe pedestrian crossings at this top end, despite the fact that 100s of school children walk there everyday. As there are no rail links in Lymm, I expect most of the houses would have 1 or 2 cars and the impact of that extra traffic every day must be accounted for.

### **Environmental Value**

We see all sorts of wildlife come into our garden from the hedgerows and fields. There are a large number of bats, field mice, pheasants and other creatures that live in this area. The proposed development of the land would surely have a massively detrimental impact on the habitats of these animals and I believe they should be protected.

In addition, in a time when there is a massive need as a nation to be more sustainable in the way we grow and source food, it seems silly to lose high quality farming land to build houses. I believe there are other plots identified that would be better suited to provide housing.

I appreciate that the population is growing and that the affordable housing need is great. I just don't believe that losing our greenbelt in the process of providing these houses is worth it. I think Warrington Council needs to think more creatively in how to provide these properties without compromising the uniquely beautiful landscape that surrounds Lymm. It is a historic town that is worth preserving for many generations to come.

I hope you will consider my concerns fully when making your decisions.