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I did not manage complete the on-line questionnaire and have found it easier to express my comments in an e-mail. You will see my personal details on the second attempt. There are two subjects for which I would like to comment.

Gypsies.

I have read the consultation document and understand the need for new housing over the next twenty years. I note too the legal requirement to provide for travellers and gypsies. However that group of people do have a reputation for leaving an unhygienic mess behind when they leave an unauthorised site, such at Winwick Quay and Burtonwood not long ago, and deservedly or not they are reputed to be involved in low level crime. Therefore I have misgivings about a site at Collins Green, but I cannot suggest an alternative.

More houses in Burtonwood.

As for new housing, I comment only about Burtonwood as I do not feel qualified to comment on other areas. I note the figure of 150 houses that might be built on land released from the green belt. I am not opposed to that although I do know people who are. However it is important that facilities and amenities are in place locally. By this I mean not just the obvious educational and medical facilities but also encouragement to provide shopping, recreational and social facilities, not forgetting somewhere for teenagers to socialise locally.

The number of amenities in Burtonwood has fallen in the [REDACTED] years I have lived here. A letter to the Warrington Guardian was written in February 2014, shortly after the closure of the Bridge Inn and the Elm Tree pub in Burtonwood. It was headed "**Burtonwood is turning into a ghost village**". It read, "When I was a young lad Burtonwood was regarded as a very desirable place to live, there were numerous shops including two newsagents, a baker, a butcher, a wool shop and a launderette. It boasted three pubs and two clubs, later a community centre, youth club, betting shop and petrol station and our own policeman, Bobby Hockey, along with an annual carnival. Over the years we have lost all but one of our shops, the petrol station, youth club and betting shop have all gone. The closure of The Bridge Inn and the Elm Tree was a terrible blow to the community]."

Unfortunately the last remaining pub in Burtonwood, the Chapel House, is threatened with closure because of a disagreement between the council and the owner over safety implications of his plan for some retail development on part of the car park, and I hope that the council's planning officers will be able to work with the owner to devise

something acceptable. It would be a sad loss if the pub were no longer available to the people who will live in the 150 new houses envisaged in the Warrington Local Plan and in this regard this not the time to consider demolition. A small retail development would also be appreciated by some people.

This is in no way a frivolous matter. Several studies have been published in recent years that show the importance of pubs for the benefits to a community and its residents in terms of the local economy and their social importance. In case you are not aware of them I list here five that I am aware of:

Pubs and Places: The Social Value of Community Pubs, by Rick Muir, Institute for Public Policy Research, January 2012. This assesses the social value of community pubs, showing why pubs matter and why there should be concern about the current state of the pub trade. It includes sections on pub closures and the economic contribution of pubs.

Friends on Tap: The Role of Pubs at the Heart of the Community by Professor Robin Dunbar, Oxford University, January 2016. This examines the extent to which community pubs offer an enriching social environment

Young Adults and the Decline of the Urban English Pub: Issues for Planning by Marion Roberts and Tim Townshend for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2013; published in *Planning Theory & Practice*, 14:4, 455-469. It concludes that the traditional pub is a site for restrained and responsible social interaction for young adults.

Village Pubs as a Social Propellant in Rural Areas: an Econometric Study, by I Cabras and C Reggiani, economists at Northumbria University and University of York ; published in the *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*, 2010. It found that villages with a thriving pub are 40/50% more likely also to have community social events and activities. Pubs are more important to the social side of village life than ever before.

Community Cohesion and Village Pubs in Northern England: an Econometric Study, by Matthew Mount and Ignazio Cabras, *Regional Studies*, 2015. Using data from 715 rural parishes, it showed the importance of pubs for maintaining rural areas in the region.

I trust my comments are helpful, and they do reflect the views of a number of people I have spoken to.

