

[REDACTED]

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Dear Sir/Madam,

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I am writing to lodge my opinion on the Wanington preferred development option. And in particular the release of Green Belt land in South Wainington. The number of proposed homes to be built in the region is staggering and disturbs me greatly. I note that it requires exceptional circumstances to release Green Belt land but cannot find any exceptional reasons outlined or satisfactorily answered by council members at proposal meetings.

The land is certainly not going 'spare'. It is being used for farming and agriculture and provides an important boundary between Halton and the area that leads towards Northwich and beyond. I find the idea of penning Wainington in with the only boundaries being the M56 and the M62 very worrying. Also in the current climate we should be preserving options with regard to agriculture, noting the uncertainty surrounding the next few years with Brexit firmly in our minds.

One of the things a councillor got stuck on at the consultancy meeting I attended was 'forecast'. Indeed, it was pretty much all he could say when pressed on required housing numbers. I have since found out that the 'forecast' is based on requirements Wainington will need to meet to become a city- this is not and never has been my desire. I also haven't found any appetite for the idea when speaking to friends and family and other parents of my son's friends who all live in the Wainington area.

The size and requirements of the development is I think, what disturbs me most of all. The area has heritage and has been a settlement since Domesday times. To destroy it forever and for subsequent generations feels like a travesty and not something we should be leaving our children and our children's children. It also feels like a monetary decision driven by profit. I don't see an independent plan issued by local government, I see a plan developed by AECOM - a global behemoth in the top 500 largest companies in the world that couldn't possibly have anything other than the drive for profit at its core. It's notable that we're not talking about affordable housing here but rather houses built to maximise profit - these will be homes for the rich at the expense of our Green Belt.

My wife and I run a small business and lose many hours sat in traffic on the surrounding motorways and roads leading in and out of Wainington. I can only see the highways being further burdened by the addition of over 8000 homes and there doesn't appear to be much of an attempt in the plans to address the issue. I see twenty years of gridlock. 8000 homes will almost certainly mean 16,000 more cars!

Even if new A roads are built, the motorways are already groaning in the area and the idea of forcing more traffic towards Wainington and Stockton Heath would be a major issue in what are already very challenging areas to negotiate any time of day.

So, very few plans or solutions on our already beleaguered roads but also a real lack of a plan with regard to the environmental impact, in fact I struggle to find anything at all in the

plans in that respect. We have many, many endangered species in the area and I look out on bats at dusk nearly every night. I've also seen great crested newts and water voles - also endangered species. I feel the North-West is generally highly populated and industrialised compared to most other regions of the UK especially Warrington, Widnes, St Helens and Runcorn and we want to dispose of the areas of Green Belt as well? That is a terrible injustice and a blow to the people of Warrington.

The plan promises more healthcare facilities - these can only be provided by the NHS and availability of staff. In other words, the council is making a promise it cannot keep or guarantee here. Allied to a massive influx of numbers. Worrying, airy fairy stuff, unaccounted for.

I believe we need to maximise our other options - look into density of dwellings in brown belt areas and the town centre rather than look at eating into destroying more wildlife, countryside and Green Belt. Also other areas that will become available over the allotted twenty year period - Warrington hospital and Fiddlers Ferry to name but two.

I would urge the planners to scale back and look into better use of all brown belt sites. A massive increase of size of the town in such a short space of time and at the terrible cost of destroying our Green Belt land is both unnecessary and unwanted.

I spoke to a fair few councillors and have followed prominent council member [REDACTED] [REDACTED] takes on the plans in the local press. I also asked several if they lived in Warrington and was surprised to find out that many didn't live in Warrington but are having a massive say on its future and the destruction of its Green Belt areas.

Coupled with development plans being led by a massive global company in AECOM and Waterfront plans led by the notorious Peel Holdings - (surprisingly large numbers of people I have spoken to have opinions on Peel Holdings not many of them good ones I'm afraid) I am greatly concerned that this is firmly out of the hands of the people that should matter most in Warrington - the residents. They are the people that are employing the council, paying council taxes year on year with good faith, believing that the council would surely have their interests at heart.

I didn't find out about the plans until quite recently. The timing of the consultation has been poorly handled and I thank several objectors for managing to extend the consultation period for an extra fourteen days. I've also recently noted that the official public announcement of plans was released via the Westmorland Gazette. Westmorland is around 100 miles away from Warrington. Perplexing and very hard not to draw several conclusions based on the way we, the residents and people of Warrington are receiving information from the council regarding the plans. The council have some way to go to prove that they are acting for and serving the people of Warrington and need to work on building a level of trust so that we might move toward improving the area together.

On a personal note, I've also seen plans that would change the face of some areas of the Trans-Pennine trail - this is an important pathway that my family and I use regularly and one of the few areas it is safe to ride on bikes and walk with young children, a vital amenity in the area and a wonderfully unique route to Lymm and other areas of local interest. I don't think it would be anywhere near the plans if people in the local area had been consulted first.

I am certainly not against Warrington progressing and welcome the plans to build a long overdue bypass if handled correctly with enough research and consultation but I believe the council should tread carefully and be transparent and honest with the people. When our

Green Belt, wildlife and what little countryside we have goes and is turned into urban sprawl it is gone forever and I consider it a duty to fight for it and maintain it for future generations and the wellbeing ofWalTington.

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