

[REDACTED]

Re: proposed provisional plans for additional houses to be built in Warrington

As residents of [REDACTED] in Appleton Thorn we wish to express our extreme concern at the provisional plans of the Council to built up to 7000 more houses and further industrial development in this area of South Warrington by releasing one of Warrington's most attractive areas of green belt and agricultural land. Such a development is likely to generate more than 10,000 additional cars in an already congested area and despite the building of a new bridge over the Ship Canal without a considerable road building programme to reach it this will congest Stockton Heath to such an extent that at peak times traffic will be backed up along the A49 to the M56 motorway and south Warrington will be grid-locked. Furthermore, the plan for tolls on the Widnes crossing is likely to divert additional traffic through Stockton Heath to take advantage of the toll free crossing. Given the restricted access to Warrington from Stockton Heath because of the Ship Canal, the Bridgewater Canal and the river Mersey it would seem an obvious idea to build rather more houses on the north side of the town rather than the amount of proposed building on the south side. There are already far more facilities easily accessible from the north than in the south

There is then the issue of schools, health centres, shopping facilities, petrol stations, and other services, given the 20,000 or more people who will eventually be living in this area which, amongst other things, will require large car parks.

I recall that in the last plan proposed by the Council 10 years, of so, ago the greenbelt in this area was preserved although the Council came up with the bright idea of 'safeguarded land' in this greenbelt area with the reassurance that Appleton Thorn would be preserved as a very attractive village which would not be absorbed into Warrington. As you will recall there was opposition to the 'Safeguarded' areas and the plan was dropped despite strong appeals by house builders who wished to keep this land available for building. One wonders how far the house builders who will make mega fortunes out of building 7,000 houses have pressurised the council into the currently proposed plan – perhaps with a few sweeteners. As things turned out the crash of 2008 ended the building boom and it is only now 10 years later that plans have re-emerged to build the first 1000 houses in South Warrington.

We sincerely hope that the Council – largely based north of the Ship Canal - will give rather more thought to the environmental loss and genuine concerns of the people living South of the Ship canal.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
