

To Warrington Borough Council

09/09/2017

Following my visit to the Consultation Meeting at the Park Royal Hotel on Monday 04/09/2017 regarding the Preferred Development Option (PDO) there are several questions that I would like answers to as the proposals directly affect my life as a Thelwall resident [REDACTED]

1. Why was proposed strategic high level crossing over the Ship Canal missing from the Map I was handed when entering the consultation process. This potential development poses serious health risks (which I will expand on in later points) for the residents of Thelwall and Latchford and is an integral part of the overall plan and to not include it in the Map represents a gross misjudgement and could be construed as a breach of your responsibility to make every effort to consult with the community as early as possible as advised by the Cabinet Office. Therefore will you be sending a corrected map to all residents in the WA4 post code ?
2. In the presentation that the figure of 24,000 homes to be built is a Government requirement , is this the case or not?
3. Is it correct that a company called ARUP have been involved in the process of producing elements of the PDO in any way whatsoever ? If so do you know if they have any commercial connection with any persons or companies that may benefit financially from the implementation of the PDO ?
4. As a parent with a Son who wants to move back to Warrington Affordable Housing is important to me. While appreciating the need for sustainable development in the whole Borough including South of the Ship canal I believe that the social Housing provision should be spread throughout the Town therefore of the proposed 24,000 new dwellings how many will be social housing and how many will be built South of the Ship Canal.
5. The figure of 24,000 New dwellings seems to be at odds with several informed forecasts of likely housing demand in Warrington. What will be the effect of Brexit on the economic growth of Warrington ? If this has not been factored into the figures you used to come up with 24,000 should WBC not wait till the full effects are known before finalising the PDO process?
6. Traffic Congestion - With the addition of 24,000 new homes an already chronic traffic situation will be intolerable and Warrington's sorry reputation for Air quality highlighted by the WHO in 2016 will get even worse. What measures have you taken to assess the likely level of Air pollution in Thelwall and Latchford after the construction of the Strategic High-level crossing? Also as the Crossing is likely to link the M6 with the new freight facility at Centre Park and there will be tolls on the crossing in Runcorn how many HGV vehicles do you anticipate running through the centre of the Town and what will be the likely effect on public health of this?

7. What measures will be in place to protect the Trans Pennine Trail as a vital civic amenity and the wildlife that have made it their home such as bats, badgers and kites and will you conduct a comprehensive study of the use of the trail and the wildlife there before any decision on a High-level crossing is made?
8. Flooding Risk- Despite the many Millions of pounds that have been spent on flood defences tonight (9th Sept 2017) Three areas of Warrington are subject to flood warnings, given that most reputable computer models forecast higher rainfall levels and Higher tides because of Global warming, what will the effect of 24,000 new dwellings and associated businesses and infrastructure have on likely flooding risks? I gather from the consultation that tree planting on higher ground is sufficient protection. However, what in your opinion will be acreage of Trees needed to be planted to absorb sufficient run off from the Huge new developments and do you agree that this large plantation will need to be established several years before development takes place.
9. Moore Wildlife Reserve – On a similar vein Moore nature reserve naturally absorbs millions of gallons of runoff water from the Southern slopes of the Mersey Valley around Warrington if this is swallowed up Port Warrington what steps will you take to prevent the increased runoff as a result combined with High tides overwhelming flood defences in the Town and what computer models have/will you used to determine the risks?
10. Community engagement _ If I may say so WBC have been abysmal in engaging the community in this vital process. Releasing the plans without adequate publicity in the school holidays? Also, why was the plan published in the Westmorland Gazette? Do the Council Tax payers in Westmorland need to be better informed of your plans than your own community? Why were no leaflets issued to residents in WA4 by the Council? Again, breaching your responsibility to make every effort to fully engage with the community. Given the way WBC have alienated the Community with the way you have handled the process so far what steps do you intend to take to engage the people of Warrington in the vital process of planned sustainable development of our Town going forward?

I look forward to your reply.

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