

[REDACTED]

From: Andrew Puddephatt [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 June 2019 13:09
To: Local Plan
Subject: Warrington Local Plan – South West Extension, Warrington Western Link and Garden Suburb Appleton Opposition

Dear Warrington Council,

May I first offer my thanks for striving to make Warrington a better place to live and work in. Importantly however, I currently feel at a complete loss with regard to your new local plan.

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As I said, I am perplexed by your revised local plan. Principally, I am in opposition to the south west extension housing development and associated services opposite Walton lea walled garden, along the A56 and up to Moore. I am not against development per se and accept development should transpire where needed, yet I just cannot agree with building on greenfield sites when there are numerous suitable brownfield sites available across Warrington. Greenfield sites are utterly essential for biodiversity and limiting urban sprawl. Significantly, here sprawling into Halton/Runcorn. This is all against the backdrop of global climate change and a radical decline in British nature, with Britain being one of the most native nature starved nations in Europe. Giving any backing, or being at all comfortable, with a project that is also wholly out of proportion in relation to the existing size of Walton is beyond me. I just cannot quite believe that a council would push for such a scheme given the pressing issues of the environment and sustainability being so high on the agenda in the political arena. Moreover, I am also aware that the census population growth projections have been revised and are not as excessive as previously thought, hence Manchester City council downgrading its housing requirement projections, so why are we not doing the same? These excessive number of new houses being proposed will also predominately not be for the current people of Warrington, but will clearly be for commuters and people moving to the area from outside of Warrington, so why build them?

The related Warrington western link I also find highly questionable and am in opposition to. The road is only likely to increase traffic volume through the area via people wanting to access north or south of the Mersey and Manchester Ship Canal for free given the toll charges of the Runcorn bridges. I also find its proposed height completely excessive, towering above the surrounding area. Clearly it is an infrastructure development to open up building on land both to the south and north of the Manchester ship canal, thus its suggested aim of reliving traffic at bridge foot in the centre of town is questionable. Even more so given the number of new houses proposed and thus traffic wanting to come and go from the centre to the south of the town. All other bridges across the Manchester Ship Canal are of a swing nature and having lived very close to the Manchester Ship Canal for several years, I think I have been prevented from crossing it due to the bridges being up only once in two years, I repeat once in two years. Overall, it is not appropriate nor needed and far too obtrusive in size.

My dismay also extends to the proposed garden suburb housing/high school development in Appleton, working all the way up to Appleton Thorn. This includes the extension of the logistics/trading estate along Barleycastle Lane, incorporating the increased size of this park and Eddie Stobart hauliers. Again, the loss of green space on this scale is a complete red line and an increase in traffic would be highly disruptive and sizeable. I am a keen cyclist and have previously complained to you about the horrendous litter found along Barleycastle lane up to where it passes over the M56. This, I can only assume, is litter linked to the various road hauliers and logistics depots there.

In all, it appears that South Warrington's geographic area by 2023 will be doubled and I cannot see for the better of any of its current residents or the town as a whole. I urge you to change these plans, since if they go ahead, it will be regretted for generations to come.

Significantly, I know that my views are shared by a very large number, if not the majority, of residents of South Warrington, so how can a council representing those people be so ignorant of them? I must confess that I am questioning my support of [REDACTED] local councillors at present in the light of the aforementioned local issues. I have voted for [REDACTED] locally for all of my life yet am doubting whether this can continue.

Finally, may I thank you for taking the time to read my email. I do hope that it is taken into consideration and acted upon.

Yours sincerely,
Andrew Puddephatt

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Warrington

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