

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 June 2019 16:44
To: Local Plan
Subject: My Response and thoughts on the Local Plan

Dear Sirs,

I make several points below about the Local Plan

Housing Need

This is difficult to predict and I would challenge whether so many houses are needed in the borough over the next few decades. Also what account has been taken of existing empty properties, does the Council know the number of vacant properties and what is it doing to bring these back into use?

North South balance

Whilst more housing is obviously needed both locally and nationally, my first thought when I look at this Local Plan is the number of houses on the South side of town, with far fewer being built on the North side where many of the new employment opportunities have arisen in recent times on areas such as Omega and Gemini. This could further increase traffic congestion with a need for cross town journeys.

Preserving Green Belt

Much of our existing green-belt will be swallowed by these plans and such areas are important for people to escape to; where the air is less polluted and where they can walk around and feel refreshed – benefitting both physical and mental health. Please modify the plans to preserve as much green spaces as possible and not just the odd small patch maintained within a new development

Brownfield sites

There will be opportunities to develop on brown field sites - the future of Fiddlers Ferry power station is already under discussion, and the existing hospital site is rather jaded and need replacing.

Active Travel

I am thankful that the plan includes references to cycling and walking and 'Active Travel' in general. If the country is to reduce our Carbon emissions, car journeys need to be discouraged. Along with the open spaces mentioned above 'Active Travel' benefits physical mental health. The Local plan envisages many more cycleways. However to be effective cycling must be 'prioritised' with cycle ways having the 'right of way' when they encounter other roads. This means removing those signs saying 'Cyclists Dismount'! Whoever puts those up does not regularly ride a bike. One needs to keep a steady peddling rhythm, and constantly stopping and starting is energy sapping.

Lymm

[REDACTED] Lymm is already heavily congested, and several roads are narrow with no opportunity to be widened – which is part of the 'rustic charm' of the village.. On Rushgreen Road I frequently observe busses having to mount the (narrow) pavement when they encounter a delivery van. Apart from the 'Trans Pennine Trail' there are no decent cycleways within the village, or room to add them.

I understand that a variety of developers have an interest in much of the agricultural land surrounding the village, and would love to have that included in the plan. It is the semi-rural rustic charm of the village which makes it a desirable place to live, AND is so appealing to developers. However a developers interest and involvement in a location remains only until he has sold the properties; after which he moves on to a new site. Generations to come will have to live with the consequences of lost open space etc. I ask the planning committee to strongly resist their demands.

Yours Sincerely

Denis McAllister

