

Mrs Ginny R Constantinou



Warrington



16 June 2019

Warrington Borough Council
Via email

Dear Sir / Madam

WARRINGTON LOCAL PLAN

Warrington Borough Council you should be ashamed of yourselves and the proposed local plan – ashamed. This plan is utterly flawed, incomprehensive and entirely unsustainable.

I will list below the reasons why this plan will not work:

- Justification of population growth over 20 years – figures quoted do not support the local plan. Why is there a need for over 20k when based on 2014 population growth - there is only a housing need of 9k?
<https://www.warrington.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/8012/population-reporter-tool-2015.xlsx>

In addition birth rates are reducing and have done so for 5 consecutive years – we have an ageing population.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/livebirths/bulletins/birthsummarytablesenglandandwales/2017>

Greenbelt does not need to be utilised based on these numbers – brownfield first. The brownfield register has not been updated since 2017 – there should be a requirement for this to be updated annually. Town & Country Planning (Brownfield Land Register) Regulations 2017.

- Excessive commercial premises near to Appleton Thorn and Grappenhall. Loss of green space and severe pollution. Massive increase in traffic.
- Greenbelt land should not be released as the plan does not meet the criteria of:

Unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas

Assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment

Preserve the setting and special character of historic towns

Assist in urban regeneration by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land

Prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another

The Government attaches a huge importance to green belts and the local plan does not demonstrate exceptional circumstances.

- Severe lack of infrastructure - roadway delivery – the Western link will move one congested area to another. It will inevitably become “a rat run” between Merseyside and the M6 south. No realistic traffic assessments undertaken – Warrington is already grid locked at rush hours and when there are accidents on the M56, M6 or M62 Warrington becomes a stand still – and Warrington Borough Council know this!
- Severe lack of infrastructure - hospitals, doctors and dentists surgeries, schools. Where is the South Warrington hospital going to be located? Who will fund these?
- South Warrington is villages and village roads which will not tolerate the increase in traffic. Destruction of village characters.
- Pollution and air quality – this is a material consideration in planning terms. The NPPF says the planning system should contribute to enhance the natural and local environment by preventing new and existing development from contributing to, or being put unacceptable risks from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable air pollution. The consequences of the local plan will drive air quality down further for all who live in Warrington.

We already have unacceptable levels of pollution and lung cancers, respiratory problems and heart issues in the region will increase. Warrington Borough Council will be signing our death warrants.

The removal of green space will make the air quality much worse, in conjunction with more vehicles as the plan is reliant on using a car.

- Environmental damage – loss of habitat for many species, loss of landscape. The Government wants us to plant billions of trees to combat climate change and Warrington Borough Council want us to destroy ours!

This plan needs to be retracted with immediate effect.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Ginny Constantinou