

HATTON PARISH COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE WARRINGTON LOCAL PLAN 2019

This is Hatton Parish Council's response to the Submission Draft of the Local Plan on behalf of the residents of Hatton.

The Parish Council supports and is represented on the South Warrington Parish Council's Local Plan Working Group and wholeheartedly agrees with the response being submitted on behalf of the Group by Groves Town Planning Ltd.

Our main items of concern about the impact that the Local Plan will have on the south Warrington area are as follows:

1. In preparing the Local Plan the Borough Council has largely ignored the wishes and concerns of the communities in south Warrington.
2. The scale of residential and employment development envisaged by creating a "Garden Suburb" will completely change the character of south Warrington and in particular the collection of Villages which it mainly consists of.
3. It will lead to an enormous loss of Green Belt areas enjoyed by local residents which is also clearly against Government Policy.
4. The scale of development in terms of growth predictions and housing numbers is not justified and is not deliverable bearing in mind the track record of the Borough Council.
5. More emphasis should be given to development in and around the town centre and on brownfield sites. Not only will this assist in the regeneration of the town centre but it will result in houses which are more convenient and more affordable to the present and future workforce. Many of the houses proposed in the Garden Suburb will be occupied by those whose jobs are in the large conurbations of the North West rather than locally.
6. The Plan will lead to significantly increased congestion and air pollution on a road system used frequently by Hatton residents which is already heavily congested particularly at peak times.
7. There is no clear solution as to how the traffic generated will access other areas of the town in particular the town centre. There are three major water obstacles but no indication of any proposals to provide additional road capacity or bridge crossings.
8. The Local Plan is heavily dependent on the Local Transport Plan being implemented but at the present time the suggested improvements in the Plan are largely aspirational and are likely to be unaffordable. For example the suggestion of a new mass transit network has not even had the most basic cost benefit analysis carried out and more than likely would add to traffic congestion rather than improving it.

We are particularly concerned about the impact that the Local Plan if implemented would have on Hatton village and its essentially quiet rural character.

We anticipate that traffic generated by the Garden Suburb who's destination is the anticipated Western Extension relief road will inevitably use Hatton as a short cut to avoid having to go around the Motorway network. This will be exacerbated when the Motorways themselves are blocked or heavily congested which frequently happens. This will mean unacceptable levels of traffic on our rural road system and increased air pollution.

We are also concerned that little consideration has been given to the impact the Local Plan proposals will have on the Cat and Lion Junction at Stretton which is frequently used by most residents. The junction is already a bottleneck at peak times the junction

We understand that no consideration has been given to date to traffic issues which flow as a consequence of the Local Plan and we believe this is an absolute necessity before any approval is given.

We firmly believe that the proposals for a Garden Suburb should be radically reduced in scale which would go a long way towards meeting our concerns set out above. We also have no hesitation in continuing to give our support to all the other Parish Councils whose areas are so badly affected and who also wish to reduce the scale of development to reasonable levels.

Unless the Local Plan is amended to reflect the views of residents of Hatton and the other parts of south Warrington it will have all the unacceptable impacts we have described and therefore it must be considered unsound.