

12th June 2019

Warrington Borough Council
New Town House
Warrington WA1 2NH

Ref: Warrington Local Plan.

I am writing to comment on Warrington Local Plan, in particular the proposals for South Warrington, Appleton and Grappenhall areas.

I DO NOT consider this plan to be 'sound' from a number of perspectives and would ask that you reconsider these proposals, which I believe would desecrate green belt land unnecessarily and create a multitude of problems locally.

Firstly the proposed level of housing development (almost 1000 homes per year) is out of line with the likely population growth predictions which suggest a need for about half the number of homes proposed. Such a reduction would save our valuable green-belt; there being enough brown-belt land to build on.

The proposals do not include any new highways and the resultant increase in traffic on the A49 and A56 would cause serious problems, especially at Stockton Heath and Latchford, which already suffer badly from congestion, noise and air pollution. Air pollution is already at unacceptable levels in Warrington generally.

There is no mention anywhere in the plans to accommodate for schools, or health facilities which would be required by all the new residents. Existing facilities would be unable to cope with the likely increase.

The warehousing/ commercial development will add to the problems, likely creating further traffic overload on existing roads and even more noise and air pollution, especially as much of this traffic will be HGV vehicles. Traffic overload would also be evident at nearby motorway junctions. Could such development be better accommodated at the Omega site in North Warrington?

In summary, these proposals do not seem to have been 'thought through' properly and as such are definitely not sound. It also has to be said that twenty years is too long a time for such a planning exercise – ten or even fifteen years is more the 'norm'. It is also questionable whether or not these proposals are deliverable, being a serious financial undertaking and considering the geographical limitations of the chosen site. If these plans were to go ahead the character of the surrounding area and villages would be altered considerably and unfavourably.

Please reconsider these proposals in line with the comments I have made herein.


David GM Partridge