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Dear Sir

Response to Warrington Local Plan

I object to the overall policy approach of making Warrington a City on the grounds that this is an over ambitious aim and is not wanted by many existing residents. Warrington is currently a pleasant place to live but this plan, if it goes ahead, could change that. The council are planning to build over one thousand houses each year according to the plan. Projections for anticipated population growth were based on the political situation in 2014. Since we voted for Brexit in 2016 the situation has changed meaning that the number of people coming to live and work in Warrington is likely to be significantly reduced. A realistic plan would remove the need to use any green belt land. This land makes Warrington attractive and it can never be replaced. Councillors need to consider Brexit and its impact and realise their plan is not sound.

Warrington already has a traffic problem and the plan will surely add to existing problems. We will be adding thousands of new homes so thousands more cars but where are the plans for the infrastructure to support the increased traffic, which will come not only from households but also from proposed Port Warrington and Stobart, Langtree and Panattoni developments, if they go ahead, taking a huge swathe of green belt land in South Warrington and increasing vehicular movements by two thousand per hour not to mention the added air pollution. Surely the Council should be sorting out the existing traffic problems first before adding to it. We have three Victorian swing bridges which cause havoc every time a ship travels through on the Ship Canal. All of them badly need painting so each one will have to be out of commission for six months at a time. Currently it can take me thirty or forty minutes to drive to Morrison's supermarket so imagine what it will be like when a bridge is shut. The council need to listen to local people and agree democratically on a plan that is reasonably practical and acceptable. Why is the Council pressing ahead when there is so much opposition and when the plans are so vague that we do not know what the environmental and ecological impacts will be if the current Plan goes ahead.

Whose interests are being served by the Local Plan? I suggest that the Plan will provide huge profits for developers and that this is the real reason for the excessive numbers of new houses planned including those on the Green Belt. A more realistic number of houses should be planned for and be built on brownfield land first. During the twenty year plan things will change with sites such as Fiddlers Ferry and the hospital site at Lovely Lane likely to provide opportunities for brownfield development but developers know that if they can build houses on the green belt they can make huge profits. Rich people might move here but they might not work or shop here. Our town centre is being regenerated and needs local people to use it. The new houses built on green belt land will bring in people who will probably work in

Manchester and choose to go shopping at the Trafford Centre which is often as quick to get to as the town centre when the bridges swing.

The Office for National Statistics most recent data (2016) suggests that almost all of the projected increase in numbers of households by 2041 will be among one person households of people age 65 and over. The Local Plan allows for one in every five proposed homes for this group. Why? Isn't this going against the evidence? Also the council should be building affordable homes for our young people. How many of these are planned? We should protect the green belt for the people of Warrington and their descendants and scrap this plan. Let's start again and find a plan that is fit for purpose i.e. one that is deliverable, puts infrastructure first and is based on the needs and desires of the Warrington townspeople.

Yours sincerely



J. Steele