

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Warrington Local Plan
Date: 15 June 2019 18:54:18

Dear Warrington Council,

I would like to register my fervent objection to the new local plan. I do not believe that the proposals in the document are sound or justified. Whilst accepting that some development is needed, I do not accept the scale and nature of what is being proposed by Warrington Borough Council due to the irreversible negative impact it will have on the residents of South Warrington.

Myself and my partner currently live in Walton. Having moved from elsewhere in Warrington as we loved the semi rural feel of the area we feel betrayed by the council's plans to completely ruin the character and distinctiveness of Walton, Grappenhall and Appleton Thorn.

Principally, I am in opposition to the south west extension housing development and associated services opposite Walton lea walled garden, along the A56 and up to Moore. In the current climate, where environmental issues are at the forefront of the nations minds, I believe it would be disastrous to destroy such an environmentally valuable resource. I strongly disagree with your proposals to build on green belt sites while there are ample brownfield sites available. Sajid Javid, has stated in Parliament that the Green Belt is 'absolutely sacrosanct'. This echoed the 2015 Conservative general election manifesto, which pledged to maintain Green Belt protection, and other previous statements by senior politicians. In March this year, the Prime Minister declared that protecting the Green Belt is 'paramount'. Greenfield sites are utterly essential for biodiversity and limiting urban sprawl. Significantly, here sprawling into Halton/Runcorn. Green Belt land should only be developed in exceptional cases, economic growth is not in itself an 'exceptional case'.

My dismay extends to the proposed garden suburb housing/high school development in Appleton, working all the way up to Appleton Thorn. This includes the extension of the logistics/trading estate along Barleycastle Lane, incorporating the increased size of this park and Eddie Stobart hauliers. Again, the loss of green space on this scale is a complete red line and an increase in traffic would be highly disruptive and sizeable.

I am aware that the census population growth projections have been revised and are not as excessive as previously thought, hence Manchester City council downgrading its housing requirement projections, so why aren't WBC doing the same? The numbers of houses proposed to be build equates to approximately triple the number projected from the 2016 population projections, this makes no sense.

In relation to Walton specifically, I am opposed to the current plans for the Western link road, more specifically the bridge across the Manchester ship canal. I disagree with the current plan for the bridge to be static, and therefore obtrusively high, rather than a swing bridge like the other existing bridges [REDACTED] Walton bridge on Chester road for almost 2 years now and haven't had to stop for a ship to pass on one single occasion, despite commuting across it every day. I also worry the road is likely to increase traffic volume through the area due to people avoiding toll charges on the Mersey Gateway.

I know that my views are shared by a very large number, if not the majority, of residents of South Warrington. I wonder how the council could possible justify ignoring the views of so many people. I have voted for Labour locally for all of my life and am seriously questioning my support.

May I thank you for taking the time to read my email. I do hope that it is taken into consideration and acted upon.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Woods

[REDACTED]