

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Local Plan](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Objection to local plan
Date: 17 May 2019 09:49:45

Good morning

I'd like to add my name to the list of people objecting to the Local Plan set out by WBC.

I am a resident [REDACTED] where we are lucky enough to be surrounded by green space. I say lucky enough because there appears to be absolutely zero respect for nature, and these wonderful prized spaces are all now being swallowed up to line the pockets of greedy developers.

In Winwick alone, there are plans to develop Peel Hall, to lose the livery at Delph Lane, and, the mother of all plans (by St Helens) to emaciate the green belt land between Newton, Lowton and Winwick and turn it into an enormous distribution hub. For which, the ramifications on the way we live our lives are severe.

Gemini has been developed out of all proportion, Warrington South is facing the very real possibility of hugely disproportionate green belt development at Six56 and Eddie Stobart. Why is nothing sacred? Why is everything so incredibly short-sighted? To be honest, these are rhetorical questions - the answer is clear.

The news coverage on Peel and its entangled companies might be under the radar now, but it's spreading and growing. As soon as you start genning up on this, it's so clear that the rationale isn't fed by need, it's fed by greed. Developers are now so closely entwined with councils that planning permission is in the pocket of people who are meant to be protecting these spaces.

I firmly believe that this will be entirely disastrous for our town. Warrington has so much potential, and it's being unlocked in exactly the wrong way. Selling the assets that could and should make us strong.

Let me spell it out how I see it. Warrington town centre and high street is failing due to competition with online stores. Mental health problems and anxiety are soaring because community is being eroded. The option to get out and speak to someone human is dying off with the closure of shops, the loss of community. Green spaces are being concreted over to allow vast distribution warehouses to further service the growth of online buying. Lots of these companies are unaccountable for tax so are giving literally nothing back to the communities that are being strangled to have them. Extra lorries and traffic pour onto roads already at breaking point. Stress and pollution levels increase. High levels of automation in these warehouses fail to benefit the jobs market. Peoples sense of worth and community continue to drop - bye bye countryside and the many physical and mental

health benefits time in the outdoors brings. Bye bye human interaction and community. Hello more traffic, more pollution, more stress, more anxiety and mental health issues.

The problem is a vicious circle and it is so disgustingly being thrust upon Warrington residents time and time again. Planning proposals are thrown out after vigorous emotional heartfelt campaigning by locals. And no sooner have weeks, months, years of fight and effort secured the right result, then a 'tweaked' proposal is put straight back in, and the proposal is back on the table again. What you are relying on, semi successfully, is people just giving up. Of people having such busy lives that they fail to become educated on the full awful extent of what's happening. When you start putting the pieces together and see the development at all these sites as a joined-up master plan for our town, it's frankly scary.

I started reading about Peel Ports a couple of years ago, and telling people then. People have no idea what's going on. They don't believe it. But slowly all the infrastructure is being put in place to support this until its a full gone conclusion. How can private equity be so prominent in the decision of the body that is paid to serve local people? How can thousands of letters of oppositions by Warringtonians be passed over? Peel have such a grip both in this town and across the North West. They treat us with utter contempt. They fail to even maintain the bridges that were put in place to reconnect the town after the building of the Manchester Ship Canal. Their vision is one-sided and self-serving.

While (as you hoped) large swathes of Warrington's population sit back ambivalent and unaware of what's happening, a growing tide are getting clued up. They're joining forces with their neighbours in Rainhill and St Helens, in Liverpool and in Irlam. All of us having the same threats of decimation of natural spaces, of seismic growth in traffic and pollution levels. All of us seeing that what is being set out by central govt is being twisted at a local council level to make money. Of housing 'targets' being grossly magnified, of relaxed green belt rules being seized upon with no true reason.

And in these areas people are rising up. Traditional notions of political parties are being cast aside. And it will happen here. There is of course a desire for growth, for prosperity. But it's balanced with reason and need. With the realisation of the importance of sustainability and emotional and physical well-being. On community and shopping local. Supporting industry and small scale production. These should be the foundations of our vision for growth. Pin the growth and marketing strategy of the town on a mast we can be proud of. Not this. Please not this.

Regards,

Jasmin Shaw