

Response 818

Respondent Details

| Information | |
|-------------|------------|
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |

PART A - About You

1. Please complete the following: Please note the email address (if provided below) will be sent a full copy of the submitted response and a unique ID number for future reference (pdf attachment).

Name of person completing the form: Suzanne Curryer

Email address: [REDACTED]

2. What type of respondent are you? Please select all that apply.

A local resident who lives in Warrington

A person who works in Warrington

3. Please complete the following:

| Contact details | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Organisation name (if applicable) | - |
| Agent name (if applicable) | - |
| Address 1 | [REDACTED] |
| Address 2 | [REDACTED] |
| Postcode | [REDACTED] |
| Telephone number | [REDACTED] |

PART B - Representation Form 1

1. To which part of the Local Plan does this representation relate? From the drop down list please select one option.

Draft Local Plan (as a whole)

2. Does your comment relate to a specific paragraph (s) or policy sub-number (s)? Please select one option.

None of the above

3. Do you consider the Draft Local Plan is: Please select one option in each row.

| | Yes | No |
|---------------------------------------|-----|----|
| Legally Compliant | | X |
| Sound | | X |
| Compliant with the Duty to Co-operate | | X |

4. If you have answered 'No' to any of the options in the above question then please give details in the box below of why you consider the Draft Local Plan is not legally compliant or is unsound or fails to comply with the duty to co-operate. Please be as precise as possible.

I wish to object to the proposals to the area in south Warrington, particularly the Grappenhall Garden City Suburb, on a number of grounds.

- **Loss of greenbelt land:** this land was put aside as it was recognised the importance of having open spaces for both agricultural and recreational use, along with the importance of maintaining the biodiversity of the local area. It appears this is no longer a valid reason when stacked up against the potential profits building on this land could bring. A few 'islands' of ancient woodland will not support a sustainable level of diversity in the area. We have a duty of care to protect our environment for future generations, something which will not happen if the majority of 'green space' created becomes manicured grass verges and planted borders. This space is even more essential given our location between the sprawling conurbations of Manchester and Liverpool. Is it legal to release this land when there are other brownfield sites available?
- **Loss of recreational space:** many people, not just local residents, but also visitors to the town use the area for walking. This would be lost. Children would not have access to 'free play' and families would be unable to explore nature and exercise their dogs. For many people, a leisure centre is not an acceptable alternative - it is well recognised the benefits, both to physical and mental health, of 'fresh' air and the freedom to roam. Leisure centres are mainly indoors, require subscriptions to be paid and most definitely do not welcome animals.
- **Loss of agricultural land:** as a region we are losing large areas of agricultural land which has a significant impact on 'food miles'. The local government has a duty to protect our resources and promote sustainability.
- **Travel congestion:** currently, it is almost impossible to cross Warrington between 7.45 - 9.15am and 3.30 - 6pm. This has a significant impact on work and makes accessing childcare very difficult. Equally, to use local amenities in and around Stockton Heath, Grappenhall and Latchford is becoming increasingly difficult as you cannot get to these locations without encountering significant traffic congestion. Since the majority of households now have 2 cars, how is it possible for the road network to cope with thousands more vehicles? New roads may be planned, but these are needed for the current residents, and would not cope with an increased population.
- **Educational facilities:** although the plans incorporate a number of new schools, how will these be funded and supported? Schools do not have the funding to function 'half - full' so would only be opened towards the end of the proposed 20 year development plan. What happens to the children currently living in the area. We have already had the traumatic experience of our daughter not being given a place at our closest high school [REDACTED] because it was over subscribed. Fortunately, she was given a place on appeal due to a few pupils choosing private education and spaces becoming available. Ordinary working families who make significant contributions to the local community are not able to afford these school fees and their children would be left having to travel miles to a secondary school which in turn will have an even greater detrimental effect on the traffic situation in Warrington.
- **Health facilities:** current provision is inadequate. It is incredibly difficult to access a GP and should a referral be required the waiting lists are unacceptable. I was referred for physio treatment in early October 2016 - the appointment came through for February 2017, by which time the condition had worsened significantly and had impacted on my own work and sporting commitments. Whilst a new health centre may feature in plans, this will not grant further access to other facilities including the hospital. It is regularly reported that the A&E department cannot meet its targets and is threatened with closure. There are limited beds available on wards and patients who do make it into A&E are left there as there are no beds available to admit them.
- **Impact on housing costs:** those of us who have invested in our properties are likely to see their value decrease as one of the major contributory factors to the value was the green space around them. Will residents be compensated for this? Villages will no longer exist and the communities within them will also be lost. This does not support any of the 'big community' policies that have been promoted by successive governments. The costs of the new housing developments are likely to be beyond the means of many working class families, simply due to their location 'south of the canal'.
- **Lack of leisure facilities:** south Warrington has seen very limited investment in these over the last 20 years. The current provision at Broomfields is quite frankly embarrassing - please visit the changing rooms and swimming pool if you are at all uncertain. A new leisure centre is essential for this part of town, but that is needed to support the current population, not a population with thousands more people. This appears to be a 'sweetener' to cover up the appalling lack of facilities already in the area.

There are many reasons why this development should not be allowed to go ahead. Surely, the council would be better off improving other areas of Warrington so they become desirable for people to become residents; brownfield sites which could be used instead of wiping our green spaces to extinction; infrastructures that could be developed so that our town can see traffic flow without the daily congestion adding hours to peoples working days. Once our greenbelt land has gone, it can never be replaced. It is commonly accepted that developers achieve a greater profit from building on virgin land, but is this profit really worth the health and appeal of Warrington and its residents?

6. Please set out what modification(s) you consider necessary to make the Draft Local Plan legally compliant or sound, having regard to the test you have identified above where this relates to soundness. (NB please note that any non-compliance with the duty to co-operate is incapable of modification at examination). You will need to say why this modification will make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound. It would be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible.

Build houses on land already released for development, do not release more land.
Build an infrastructure for transport links to support the current community before considering future development.
Put in place facilities for education, healthcare and recreation/leisure for current community before considering future development.
Reduce significantly the number of homes proposed as this is considerably more than current government guidelines.
Carry out a full impact assessment on air quality and pollution before any further development is considered.

7. If your representation is seeking a modification, do you consider it necessary to participate at the oral part of the examination? Please select one option.

No, I do not wish to participate at the oral examination

You have just completed a Representation Form for Draft Local Plan (as a whole). What would you like to do now? Please select one option.

Complete the rest of the survey (Part C)