



Subject:
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Objection to the Draft Local Plan
14 June 2019 15:55:45

I am writing to object to your flawed, ill conceived Draft Local Plan. The use of green belt land for housing and employment completely goes against Government and Labour party guidelines, Faisal Rashid is against the plan and so are the vast majority of residents and local councillors. The plan does not meet 4 of the 5 criteria for a 'special circumstances' release from Green Belt. Government guidelines are that all brown site options are to be exhausted before Green Belt release is to be considered, Fiddlers Ferry is due to be decommissioned shortly and this fact has been completely disregarded. WBC has no economic plan to justify such large scale expansion, if the growth is based on Logistic Hubs the council craves so badly then you are totally ill-informed. These Hubs are automated warehouses offering very poorly paid roles, the employees will probably have to commute from outside the area causing even more congestion.

On the subject of congestion, the proposed new homes in the south of Warrington are too far away from both of our railway stations, meaning more car use across town leading to even poorer air quality. This congestion issue will deter people from South Warrington from using the town centre and help with its regeneration, the same pattern of residents going out of town for shopping and leisure will continue because of your shortsighted plans. WBC policy objectives state that you will preserve the identity and distinctive character of our area, this is another obvious failing from the Draft Local Plan, a plan with no positives or advantages for the residents of Warrington. Just a big win for developers and the WBC coffers.

The impact to wildlife has been given no consideration, an area WBC doesn't even take seriously, if you did then you would employ a Natural Environmental officer. This role has been vacant since 2014 and urgently needs reinstating due to vast number of planning applications!!!! It is widely believed we are in a Climate Change Crisis as stated by the Labour Party Leader so it is startling that WBC are willing to remove 11% of Warrington's remaining green belt with almost all being targeted in South Warrington. I recently signed a petition regarding re-wilding and other natural climate solutions, the Government responded and agreed that natural based solutions are key to tackling climate change. I don't think that included covering 600 acres of green belt with concrete and tarmac!!!! An assessment of the natural environment needs to be undertaken as proposed by the Warrington Nature Conservation Forum, this assessment should have been one of the first actions of the Draft Local Plan, it isn't even an afterthought for WBC. Green belt land and viewing wildlife are key ingredients for good mental health but again this is of little interest to WBC, at a time where this subject is finally being openly spoken about without embarrassment, it is quite shocking that WBC hasn't contemplated the impact.

It is quite clear from your conduct that WBC does not take into consideration the best interest of the residents of Warrington, hopefully people remember your lack of compassion and the negative impact your decisions are having on peoples lives when local elections take place next year.

Andrew Thomson

