

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 June 2019 20:24
To: Local Plan
Subject: Local Plan

Dear Sir, Madam,

I am writing to comment on the Local Plan for Warrington. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

1. I do not think the plan is sound in that it is based on overoptimistic economic growth targets. The country has been in an uncertain situation since 2016 and the growth of the national and local economy is going to be further affected by Brexit. Given the current level of uncertainty it would be more sensible to make a plan for fifteen years and then review it.
2. The number of houses proposed for Lymm is still too high. The town has increased significantly in size in the last 25 years and the infrastructure cannot cope with more. In particular the surgeries are already full, and the roads, particularly Whitbarrow Road and Rushgreen Road are at full capacity now, before any further additional demands are put on them. How Whitbarrow Road could cope with extra housing as well as the Care home and nursery which have recently been approved defies any logic. There will be serious accidents if all this goes ahead.
3. [REDACTED] the motorway system at the top of Cherry Lane - it is a difficult and heavily loaded junction. The motorways are very heavily congested and yet the plan proposes a lot more business in distribution centres. This will make the motorways and Junction 20 impossible and dangerous. In my opinion far more needs to be done to improve the railways and get far more freight OFF the roads and onto trains, or even the canals. It is outdated Thatcherite policy to put more and more onto the roads. We need a vision for the new century not the old one. An over-reliance on this type of business for Warrington would be damaging.
4. As far as the location of new housing is concerned, I think as much as possible should be on brownfield sites. The current proposal will take about 11 per cent of our precious green belt which does so much to give the settlements to the South of Warrington their character. Once the green belt is gone, it is gone forever. It must be protected for the sake of our health and wellbeing as well as for its contribution to preserving green space which absorbs CO2 and rainfall. The centres of towns no longer need so many shops. With online shopping the empty shops are simply not required. All over the country we see empty retail space. This is an opportunity to get residential accommodation back into town centres, with facilities for communities. This would revive our town centres after a period of retail overdevelopment and the use of brownfield means less sacrifice of green belt.
5. We are facing huge challenges with regard to climate change. Please look ahead to the inevitable closure of Fiddlers Ferry which will free up huge areas which could be reused for housing, rather than tearing up our precious green belt. The country needs its green spaces, and the proposed loss of part of Moore Nature Reserve is inexcusable.
6. Please seek a greater variety of new businesses, so that we are not reliant on distribution work which will generate vast numbers of vehicle movement so close to Lymm, and clogging up the motorways. Warrington needs to take steps urgently to improve its air quality, not just encourage businesses which will further damage the air and our quality of life.
7. The proposed houses at Statham would require additional space in Statham School and in the surgeries. There must be guarantees that the developers will make a very substantial contribution to these, and the infrastructure must be constructed before the houses, not after.

In summary, I think the plan should be reconsidered to reduce its overoptimistic growth forecasts, reduce its erosion of the green belt and reduce its damaging impact on the motorway system and narrow, overcrowded roads in Lymm.

Your faithfully
Dinah Robertson MA. OBE

On behalf of my husband John Booth and myself

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