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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 June 2019 16:53
To: Local Plan
Subject: Local plan consultation

Dear Sirs

Having considered the draft local plan for Warrington, I would like to register my concerns as part of the consultation process. I do not consider the plan to be sound for the following reasons.

I do not consider growth ambitions of the council sufficient justification to destroy the character of south Warrington and the creation of one urban mass. I fully understand the need to provide additional housing in the borough, but do not think enough attention has been paid to creating this housing predominantly from brown field sites, and I do not understand why the council are looking to build more houses per year than required.

The road infrastructure in particular has not been adequately taken into consideration. We are constrained by canal crossings and Stockton Heath is already extremely congested throughout the day. Travelling will become more congested, with increasing air pollution and gridlock is highly likely to occur on a regular and permanent basis. The government has recently announced a climate change emergency, and yet the council plans are just going to exacerbate the problems that already exist today, with nothing in the plan on how these issues will be addressed.

I cannot see any justification for the release of green belt land. Green belt should not be touched except in exceptional circumstances. We need to retain green belt land if we are to have any chance of trying to reduce or even maintain environmental issues and pollution. Green belt should not be sacrificed and should be maintained. This should be possible if other alternatives are used, such as reducing the planned new houses to a more realistic level and using brown field sites as they become available.

Overall I do not consider the plan to be sound and would ask the council to review the plan once more to a more realistic and balanced approach that retains the green belt, addresses the road infrastructure issues and focuses on housing that is needed rather than growth ambitions that are not shared by the general public who live in the borough.

Yours faithfully
Elaine Bagley

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