

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Local Plan](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Warrington Local Plan 2019
Date: 12 June 2019 17:25:54

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am writing to vehemently oppose Warrington's Local Plan for South Warrington because it will have a devastating effect on the countryside, communities and quality of life across the whole area north of the M56 from junction 10 to Lymm. This plan is unsustainable without impossibly expensive and destructive road building and it will destroy Green Belt land of high landscape and agricultural value for ever. The Local Plan includes 5,000 new houses being built on Green Belt land for the proposed 'Garden Suburb' during the next 20 years. The parishes of Stretton, Appleton, Grappenhall, Walton and Thelwall areas would become engulfed in one huge urban area thereby destroying their history and heritage, which in my opinion is totally unacceptable. The ability to access and enjoy green space is an amenity in itself and the loss of such a significant amount of green space will be detrimental to all residents, not just local ones.

The National Planning Policy Framework indicates that established Green Belt boundaries should only be altered in 'exceptional circumstances', but why does Warrington Borough Council believe that there are 'exceptional circumstances'. This land is not 'spare land', it is actively being used for agricultural purposes.

The Council's stated need for another 18,900 dwellings is enough to house 44,000 people but the official population growth figures forecast an increase of only 18,874 by 2041. This would require only 7,864 dwellings which could all be built on Brown Field sites. There are Brown Field sites likely to be released within the 20 year period of the plan which have not been taken into consideration. Fiddlers Ferry for example, is nearing its end and also Warrington Hospital is planning to move to a new site. These areas could make a significant contribution to the town's housing needs so that Green Belt could be spared. Achieving a higher housing density in the town centre (such as apartments) of up to 40 dwellings per hectare could mean a lower density could be achieved elsewhere in the plan. This would have the advantage of requiring less Green Belt land.

Our roads, canal crossings and Motorway junctions cannot cope now, let alone with the extra traffic generated by the 116 hectares of industrial development and another 5,000 houses. But the plan shows no routes or detail for new roads. The plan still relies on three Victorian swing bridges to access the town centre.

Warrington and Halton hospitals are already operating at or near capacity. Almost all the GP / medical centres in Warrington are operating at or near to capacity. 18,900 extra houses means some extra 44,000 extra residents. This huge increase in population will require more medical services. The Plan promises new health facilities but the Council is not able to provide these. That will depend on the NHS and the availability of staff.

A high level of environmental and ecological impact survey has not been included in the Plan. Protecting wildlife matters, and a wide variety of animals and birds live in the Green Belt areas including badgers, water voles, great crested newts and bats. South Warrington's countryside is being unfairly targeted. Our area is the green lung for the town enjoyed for centuries by people right across the town. Our open countryside is precious and can never be replaced. It must not be sacrificed for developer or Council profit.

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I believe that practically all Warrington's Green Belt could be preserved by scaling back on the planned housing and employment numbers and better use of Brown Field sites.

I hope that my views stated here will be taken into account.

Yours faithfully

Elsbeth F. C. Kershaw