From:
To: Local Plan

Subject: Objection to the Warrington Borough Council Local Plan.

Date: 17 June 2019 12:56:07

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to object to the Warrington Borough Council Local Plan.

My reasons for wishing to object to this plan are as follows:

- The number of residential dwellings being proposed by the plan far outweighs how many houses the government calculation methodology says would be needed. The increased number stated is not only unwarranted but is also unjustified.
- The proposed use of greenbelt land ahead of utilising available brownfield sites is short-sighted. Greenbelt land should be used as a last resort, IF and WHEN all suitable brownfield sites have been redeveloped and only then IF more housing is definitely required. Since this plan was produced it has been announced that the Fiddlers Ferry site is closing much earlier than originally anticipated. This area should not be used as a contingency but should be redeveloped ahead of any greenbelt area usage. Greenbelt land is intended to prevent unrestricted urban sprawl, safeguard countryside from encroachment, preserve the setting and character of historic towns, to prevent neighbouring towns from merging and to encourage the recycling of derelict and other urban land. This plan seeks to disregard all these factors and is therefore unsound. No 'special measures' are justified within the plan to warrant these rules to be ignored.
- The proposed decimation of the Southern areas of Warrington would remove the very characteristics that make choosing to live in that area so desirable. Residents of the southern villages enjoy the green landscape, peace and tranquillity that these areas provide and that warrant the increased council taxes payable to reside in this area. Most of this housing will therefore not be affordable to local residents and are proposed to be in locations far away from local rail stations and will therefore necessitate more vehicles to be driven in the area.
- To over-develop Warrington without first addressing the major infrastructure issues that currently exist is also short-sighted. Congestion in the town is rife with much of the road network already unable to cope with existing levels of traffic. If any of the Manchester Ship Canal crossings fail (as they regularly do) this problem is heightened. Any lane closures of the surrounding motorways already cause complete gridlock across the town. In short, Warrington's roads are already not able to cope. This cannot be allowed to worsen without considerable improvement BEFORE houses are built. Warrington is unable to afford sufficient improvements to the roads to successfully navigate this issue.
- Already Warrington residents have to travel outside of their immediate areas in order to receive healthcare services. Doctors Surgeries are at maximum capacity with excessive appointment lead-times. Dentists are not accepting new patients, even those who pay for treatment themselves. How will these services cope when resident numbers increase?

Over 4,500 objections were submitted against the Preferred Development Option in 2017 and this Local Plan seems to have completely disregarded these with no attempt being made to develop a sound, reasonable and feasible plan. I fully acknowledge that more housing will be required over the next 20 years however this needs to be affordable, of the right type and appropriately placed without decimating our beautiful greenbelt unless absolutely necessary and as a last resort.

Yours sincerely, Mrs S Kitteringham

