



Hi,

I am emailing to say how concerned I am about the communication about Warrington Borough Council's Preferred Development Option (https://www.warrington.gov.uk/info/201368/local_plan_review/2274/local_plan_review), and the lack of awareness that people have about this plan.

The first I heard about this was on the BBC's news website, in this article: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-40585119>

The plans show how land between the Bridgewater canal and M56 will be removed from the greenbelt, and become a 'Garden City Suburb', with up to 8000 new houses, a retail centre, commercial area and secondary school.

I am very concerned because I feel there is a lack of transparency around the proposed development.

Firstly, the consultation document on the council's website (link above) is not easy for people to read and understand. It is not written in plain English. The document is very hard to wade through, the language is difficult to read with lots of jargon and a lack of clear explanations, and the maps do not clearly show the areas that will be affected.

Secondly, there is very little local awareness of this consultation and proposed development. None of my friends or neighbours have heard about the development plans or consultation. There has been no coverage in the local or regional press, and the first I knew about this was the BBC article (link above). This is the biggest change to the Appleton/Grappenhall/Stockton Heath area in a generation, so I do not know why there isn't any information in the local papers, or information from our local MP. Important events like elections have resulted in lots of press coverage and leaflets being distributed to households, but the prospect of 8000 houses being developed on greenbelt land has not elicited any response/press coverage at all.

Thirdly, the consultation period runs from late July to early September, when many people are on holiday.

Fourthly, although there are consultation events, there is not one in Grappenhall, a village that will be massively impacted by the plans.

I would like to know why there is so little focus and attention being given to such an enormous change, not only to the local area but also about the removal of so much land from the greenbelt.

Consultations are vital for people to have their say, but if people do not know about the consultation process or the plans that are being consulted on, people cannot have their say via the consultation process. It is a vicious circle, so I would ask that you please cover these proposals more widely, so that whatever their opinions, people are informed and can contribute to what happens in our neighborhoods.

People take notice of what MPs say and what is in the local papers, so please can you do more to tell people about the proposals, what they mean and how people can get involved and have their say.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]