

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Local Plan](#)
Subject: Objection to Local Plan October 2021
Date: 06 November 2021 14:22:48

I am writing to object to the Local Plan.

I have lived in Warrington and [REDACTED]. In that time I have seen a number of significant changes. When I first came there was a branch of M&S in the town as well as at Gemini. When the shopping mall was developed there was a Debenhams and many other stores. Long before Covid, the M&S shut which meant that when buying M&S food weekly for my elderly parents there was no point in doing that shop in Warrington. Now that Debenhams and other stores have gone a lot of work needs to be done to improve access and facilities to attract shoppers again- a tram system would be really great and very green.

Building affordable housing near the town centre means more shoppers likely to be shopping in Warrington because they are so close. Building houses in South Warrington will not have this effect because the bottle necks caused by limited crossings of the river and canals and the congestion resulting whenever the M6 has a problem mean that people in South Warrington find it quicker and easier to drive to Altrincham than Warrington.

The congestion and bottlenecks are another reason why we don't need any more traffic on the roads. People living in affordable housing are not likely to have two or three cars per household, furthermore such properties within striking distance of the town mean people can manage without a car. However if you build new homes in South Warrington they are likely to be much more expensive properties the owners of which each have a car and so do any adult children.

The Knutsford Road has problems with speeding traffic between the bridge over the Bridgewater Canal and the Springbrook traffic lights. I cross this road near the Bellhouse Lane turn off twice most days to visit my elderly father accompanied by my disabled son on his trike. The island is not really big enough for us but without it I wouldn't dare cross at that point at busy times but would have to go to the Springbrook junction and back. Even this junction has its problems. There are no pelican crossings here. Crossing has to be coordinated with anticipated light changes. Traffic heading North and turning left towards Stockton Heath tends to come round the corner at speed and I wonder how safe my Dad is in crossing here. Another 310 houses on Thelwall Heys would be 600+ more cars on these busy roads would be more dangerous. In terms of green issues more traffic and less green belt moves in the opposite direction to the one we are supposed to be moving to to combat climate change.

Warrington has surely suffered from a rise in mental health issues since Covid and is no doubt struggling like the rest of the UK to provide suitable mental health services. The charity MIND supplies information and references regarding important links between nature and mental health. By building on greenbelt you are destroying the lungs of South Warrington. What you are proposing flies in the face of the government's National Planning Policy Framework. You are encouraging urban sprawl, ignoring your responsibilities to regenerate the centre of Warrington and turning a blind eye to the fact that this development merges villages by plugging the gaps between them with characterless developments.

Finally, we are poorly provided for in terms of gyms and pools. The pool building at Lymm is on different levels and we rely on a lift which has had problems with reliability in the past. The disabled changing room at Broomfields is also the first aid station and also the breast feeding room. On one occasion two disabled people were queueing outside because a mother was feeding her baby. One person missed the lesson they had paid for. The toilet is tiny, there is barely room for a zimmer let alone a wheelchair. Although the examples I have given pertain to disabled people, the fact that these issues arise is a reflection on how outdated these facilities are and how much they need to be improved and expanded for the benefit of everyone. Given how important exercise is for physical and mental health I cannot understand how you can propose building any more houses without improving facilities first.

Caroline Smith
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