

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Local Plan](#)
Subject: Borough Local Plan Response
Date: 09 November 2021 12:53:33

Dear Warrington Borough Council

I am writing in response to the 'Local Plan' for South Warrington as a resident of Appleton for 17 years. It is difficult to know how to respond as I, and everyone I speak to who lives locally, is absolutely horrified at what is planned for our area. At the time of the Cop26 Summit it is incredible that Warrington has come up with a plan that will wipe out virtually every green space and blade of grass between Stockton Heath and the motorway network.

I am a lay person but I do not think you have to be an expert to see what the impact of an additional 4,200 houses in the area will be:

Loss of animal habitat. At the moment our fields and woodland are home to hares, bats, hedgehogs, foxes, badgers, woodpeckers, wrens, nuthatches, buzzards and kestrels as well as our more common animals and birds. This will be more of their precious habitat lost for ever, accelerating their decline. How can England preach to other countries about their wildlife loss while destroying its own invaluable green spaces?

More children growing up without access to wildlife and nature unless they drive to find this in their family car, which brings us on to...

Car journeys. Our area is already a rat run due to the motorway networks, with the result that the roadsides around Appleton Thorn business park are littered with rubbish. The green fields provide the lungs for Stockton Heath and South Warrington and protect us from the worst of the air pollution from the motorway network. Our roads are already crowded at all times of day. We have no rail network close by so residents of Appleton area are heavily reliant on cars.

4,200 houses = 8,400 cars = 16,000 to 24,000 extra car journeys a day in the area.

Flooding - since the new development around St Matthew's Primary school there was flooding for the first time around Pewterspear ponds. Our fields provide necessary drainage (many already flood, in part, each winter). Once the whole area is paved over this will be unimaginably worse.

Schools - at a conservative estimate of 1 child per new house, there will be around 4,000 children between the ages of 4 and 16 needing a school place. ie c400 children per school year = 13 additional classes required in each school year. Where are these children going to go to school?

Access to medical resources - many residents have already not seen an NHS dentist for 18 months and struggle to get a GP appointment. 4,200 new houses will mean around 10,000 - 16,000 new patients for local doctors and dentists to have to see.

Many people I have spoken to are planning to relocate if the development goes ahead (some have already moved due to the work at Appleton Cross and Pewterspear, and we can see the 'for sale' signs going up around the proposed development sites). Many of us already travel for work or work from home so once the benefits and character of the Appleton area have been destroyed for ever, there will be little to keep us here.

Whilst new housing and development are always needed, I ask you to please, please look again at the use of existing brownfield sites and whether there is indeed the need for this level of new housing. Our green belt is so valuable to the whole community for the physical and mental health benefits it delivers - something that lockdown has reminded us all of, very forceably.

You have the future of the Appleton area in your hands, please look after it for the sake of the residents, our children and our wildlife.

When the last tree has been cut down, the last fish caught, the last river poisoned, only then will we realise that one cannot eat money,"

Kind regards
Carole Brown

