

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 November 2021 23:23
To: Local Plan
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Local Plan Consultation - South Warrington

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing with reference to the proposed Local plan for developments in South Warrington and to lodge our objections.

We do not believe that the plan is sound and for the following reasons:

1. The South East Urban Extension is unsustainable. There are narrow roads, old and poorly maintained canal crossings and congested motorway junctions. As we have seen numerous times, any problems on the M56, M6 and M62 motorways result in the motorway traffic being diverted to an already inadequate A49 through Stockton Heath and onwards to Warrington. This congested road infrastructure simply cannot support another 4000+ dwellings and the 8000+ additional cars (families in this area typically have 2 cars).
2. Road Capacity. The roads in this area are already at capacity and inadequate to support further expansion of domestic dwellings and industrial development.
3. Traffic and air quality. There is no consideration being made in respect of this. With congestion comes poor air quality, proven and really simple.
4. Schools and Health centres. There is no guarantee or plan for when additional schools and medical facilities will be provided. Essential infrastructure and services have to be established first. Getting appointments at Stockton Heath Medical Centre, for example, is increasingly difficult. How does the Council propose to mitigate the lack of capacity of Medical facilities as part of this expansion?
5. Brownfield sites must be used first. Warrington has many Brownfield sites which will provide the quantity and quality of town housing required for the people of Warrington. Affordable housing for local families is supposed to be a priority for Councils and local government. The plan should clearly state that Greenbelt must not be built on until the Brownfield sites are fully developed.
6. Protecting the Green belt. Building on Greenbelt is against the stated preference of the Government.
7. Loss of countryside and wildlife. Loss of natural habitats is widely recognised as a major concern and the countryside that is left must be protected.
8. There is no strategic local transport plan. The pandemic has shown above all else that quality of life is increasingly becoming a priority for many people. This includes fitness and overall well being. Key to this is access to safe cycle lanes, widespread use of bicycles and public transport and more pedestrian capacity. Whilst there has been much talk of a Stockton Heath by-pass via a new connecting link from the M56 and across the Mersey and Ship canal, there is no reference to this in the Local plan. A strategic transport plan must encourage the widespread and routine use of bicycles and public transport and discourage the use of cars. Traffic behaviour is not currently managed well. Allowing cars to park on double yellow lines and on pavements is neither legal nor sustainable and with no visible enforcement.

We do not believe that the plan is sound and request that our reasons be taken fully into consideration by the Independent Inspector.

Yours faithfully.

Dr Stephen and Mrs Susan Foster
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