From:
To:
Local Plan

Subject: Warrington Local Plan 2021

Date: 12 November 2021 14:20:49

To whom it may concern,

I wish to register my objection to the latest version (2021) of the Warrington Local Plan. My major objections revolve around the proposed South Warrington Urban Extension section of the plan.

As a general comment, this latest plan has failed to recognise and acknowledge any of the general objection principles that were registered by the majority of South Warrington residents in responding to the previous Local Plan proposals in 2019. This latest plan is simply a rehash of the "Garden Suburb in South Warrington" principle from 2019, with some cosmetic changes to make the appearance that WBC is listening to the people of South Warrington. What was requested and required of this new plan was a fundamental review of the feedback received in 2019, a fundamental change in direction for the plans for the area and more specifically and importantly, protection of South Warrington's most valuable asset and amenity, the Greenbelt land.

Unfortunately, there is nothing in this new plan that addresses any of my well documented objections to the 2019 Local Plan, namely:

- (i) Unsound economic growth figures they remain unsound,
- (ii) **Unjustified loss of greenbelt land** there is still absolutely NO justification for the loss of greenbelt land. The fact that the country and the world is currently fighting to protect nature and the environment for future generations seems to be irrelevant to WBC. The fact that the country (following Brexit) needs more farmland, not less, seems to be ignored by WBC. Where are the environmental, climatic and economical impact assessments to support the unwanted destruction of greenbelt land? Why are WBC not utilising all Brownfield land before even considering the loss of Greenbelt? The government is currently considering a new approach to house building which will "ban" building on greenbelt therefore this plan needs to be put on hold and reconsidered in light of new "green" policies.
- (iii) **Unrealistic and unsound infrastructure plan** the infrastructure plans remain unrealistic, unsound and in some cases vague. There is nothing in the plan to overcome the current congestion and transport issues associated with getting over the river and/or canal into Warrington. These roads are already overstretched.
- (iv) **Unsound housing delivery plans** they remain unsound. What is needed in the Local Plan are houses built which are more connected to the town centre and infrastructure routes. There needs to be more housing in areas where there is no reliance on cars for domestic and employment purposes, where public transport can easily enable residents to travel to Manchester, Liverpool, Chester, etc.
- (v) Unacceptable impact on congestion or air pollution these plans still go against all current thinking on use of cars and impact on people's health and well being. Warrington is already one of the most polluted areas in the country, nothing in this plan begins to address this problem. In fact, these current plans are destined to make things worse!
- (vi) **Unfit for purpose** these plans remain considered by most to be undeliverable

In summary, this is not a sound nor deliverable plan. It once again demonstrates that WBC are not interested in what the people of South Warrington have to say about their local area. It again demonstrates that WBC does not recognise the UK / Global consensus and policies to reduce Climate Change, protect the environment and improve the health and well being of all individuals. It is evident that WBC are carrying on regardless with a plan which will decimate the character and distinctiveness of South Warrington by destroying the Greenbelt land for future generations and will exacerbate the current congestion and pollution problems that are clearly evident today.

Dr Alastair King

Resident of South Warrington for 20 years



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