

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Local Plan](#)
Subject: Warrington Draft Local Plan
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The Draft Local Plan would lead to an unjustifiable loss of Green Belt, without any real evidence of special circumstances and at a time when the Government is setting ambitious new targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. I failed to find in this plan any persuasive social or economic arguments for the large scale development which entails the destruction of such a large part of the countryside in South Warrington.

It is hard to believe that Warrington, a town which already has some of the worst air pollution in the country, could be planning to convert vast tracts of farmland into housing estates and industrial and commercial premises. The proposed large scale increase in road traffic would not only be detrimental to the environment, with an increase in air and noise pollution, but would exacerbate the existing congestion on local roads which is already untenable.

This is a dormitory area where a large proportion of the population travel to work utilising the nearby motorways. The new housing is not, therefore, for local people, it attracts new residents who do not work in Warrington and will add to the transport problems that we already have; problems which the Council successfully ignore whenever there is a new planning application.

At a time when the country is hosting COP26, whose participants have agreed to reform their policies in order to support a sustainable food system, this plan would decimate farming in the South of Warrington. In a 2019 report

<https://www.businessinsider.com/no-deal-brex-it-percentage-british-food-imported-shortages-2019-1?r=US&IR=T>

I read that 80% of our food is imported. At a time when it is essential that we should be creating plans to protect our farmland and encourage homegrown food production this plan seeks to do the very opposite.

I also find it difficult to understand why we spent years developing the Appleton Thorn Ward Neighbourhood Development Plan, one of whose prime aims was to protect the local Green Belt, when it can be so easily ignored.

It is ironic that one of the main reasons for Green Belt is to prevent urban sprawl when the plan is to destroy vast stretches of Green Belt in South Warrington. This would mostly affect the village of Appleton Thorn, protected as we thought by the Neighbourhood Development Plan, already blighted by developers and in great danger of losing forever its individuality and identity as a Cheshire village because of the urban sprawl this plan would create.

I wish to object to the Draft Local Plan

Alan Murray

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