



Local Plan, Planning Policy and Programmes,
Growth Directorate,
Warrington Borough Council,
East annexe,
Town Hall,
Sankey Street,
Warrington WA1 1HU

**Ref: Response to the Updated Proposed Submission Version Local Plan 2021 (UPSVLP21)
Response No. 5 - Community indoor recreation facilities**

Dear Sir / Madam

In response to the local plan public consultation, I wish to submit my responses and objections to the local plan specifically addressed to policies:

- **DEV6 – Warrington’s Quality of Place.**
- **MD2.3 – South East Warrington Urban Extension - Detailed site-specific requirements.**
- **OBJECTIVE W1 – Section 4.3 - Retail and Leisure needs**
- **OBJECTIVE W4 – Section 7.4 – Warrington’s Community Facilities**
- **OBJECTIVE W5 - Section 8.5 – Open Space, Outdoor Sport and Recreation Provision**

The proposals within this Local Plan fail to provide suitable dedicated accommodation or facility for **indoor** leisure, sporting and community health and wellbeing requirements. This requirement forms a vital role in a balanced and well-designed community infrastructure. It is noted that co-use of larger leisure facilities using schools and existing leisure facilities are made reference to but, these larger facilities are generally outside the requirement of smaller social activity requirements.

The proposed PSVLP21 Plan also clearly caters for outdoor sports and recreational facilities, walking and cycling. However, it completely omits facilities and accommodation within the proposed SWEUE to cater specifically for indoor sporting and other community activities for young and older people, the disabled and the disadvantaged.

These facilities are completely lacking as they are not included anywhere within the local plan. This non-specific exclusion is not even considered or made provision for in the policy DEV6 ‘Warrington’s Quality of Place’.

The provision of indoor sporting and other community facilities for a large and varied set of activities for young and old residents is essential and paramount in maintaining and enhancing the social wellbeing of existing and new proposed residential areas within the SEWUE.

What is required is suitable multi-functional or separate indoor facilities which will provide for typically the following sports clubs and wider range of social activities which have not been catered for in the Local Plan:

- Scouting & Guiding
- Youth Clubs
- Amateur dramatics
- Martial arts
- Yoga and other health style activities.
- Art and craft groups
- Dances and other social functions

Many of the existing facilities for the current limited range of activities provided are already at maximum capacity and have no room to grow with the proposed increase in local population throughout the SEWUE. The Local Plan is unbalanced and unsound in its approach as it looks to providing more retail and large leisure facilities as opposed to the extremely important need for small local community-based activities which provide health and wellbeing for local communities.

OBJECTIVE W1 – Section 4.3 - Retail and Leisure needs

‘Meeting Warrington’s Retail and Leisure needs’ is specifically focused on retail shopping and leisure facilities in district centres, neighbourhood and local centres.

Policy DEV 5 refers to sustaining and supporting the health and wellbeing of local communities within the various centres but it does not include any requirement for developers to provide suitable indoor activity accommodation for activities described above. This needs to be included in this policy.

OBJECTIVE W4 – Section 7.4 – Warrington’s Community Facilities

It is refreshing to see that policy INF4, specifically in ‘General Principles’ sections 2 d and e, that it addresses the requirements of social or community infrastructure. However, to comply with promoting health and wellbeing, as stated in section 1, it should require developers to include the requirement to provide buildings for indoor accommodation for activities described above. This needs to be included in this policy.

OBJECTIVE W5 - Section 8.5 – Open Space, Outdoor Sport and Recreation Provision

Although this section refers, in the main, to outdoor Sports and Recreation facilities it should not be limited to outdoor pursuits. Indoor sporting activities such as those outlined further above should be included in this section in order to make a fuller and more comprehensive provision for all indoor community activities across the spectrum. To that end, the requirement for buildings to be provided for indoor sporting activities should be a fundamental requirement for any residential development or neighbourhood area. Policy DC5 therefore needs to include this requirement.

Yours Faithfully

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John E. Appleton

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