

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Local Plan](#)
Cc: [Colette Fellows](#); [Dave Hockenhull Council](#)
Subject: Local Plan consultation - objection
Date: 14 November 2021 11:53:09

I wish to object very strongly to the proposals made in the current Proposed Submission Version of the Local Plan.

I am a Parish Councillor for Thelwall and I am aware of the representations made by Groves Town Planning on behalf of six Parish Councils in the south of Warrington. I agree wholeheartedly with the views expressed in those representations.

I think that the strategy of the PSV is completely inappropriate in a world that is trying to face up to Climate Change. It relies far too much on road transport to drive growth and to enable people to live in places that require a car in order just to leave the house. It is a strategy that belongs to the 1980s.

Furthermore, I think the PSV is not credible - it fails to explain how the Local Plan will actually work to deliver the desired benefits. Its targets for Growth and Housing appear inflated and unrealistic when compared with what has been achieved in the past. It does not address the town's chronic congestion problem and it makes no attempt to link new development in the south to the town centre.

Given the poor chance of success with this strategy, the proposal to remove land from Green Belt to support it is unacceptable. Green Belt is not a resource to be plundered for short-term gain, it is something we should cherish and pass on to future generations. The Local Plan should be formulated in a way that leaves Green Belt untouched.

This last comment applies particularly to Thelwall Heys. Thelwall Heys is not only a beautiful and tranquil rural place with openness; it is also well-appreciated by the public because it can be seen from public paths on all sides, especially from the towpath of the Bridgewater Canal and from the Transpennine Trail. It was specifically placed in the Green Belt by the Planning Inspector in 2005 and should not be removed from the Green Belt now. It has served its Green Belt function in preventing urban sprawl and should continue to do so. It is made clear by WBC that the proposal to remove Thelwall Heys from Green Belt has been made because it is shovel-ready and will provide 'a quick win' for WBC. But this does not constitute an 'exceptional circumstance' that would be required to justify its release. It is clear to me that in the context of the PSV, there is no overall shortage of land for housing. Using Thelwall Heys is simply a convenient short-term expedient which will, however, result in the permanent sacrifice of an outstanding Green Belt site.

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Yours faithfully

Clifford Taylor

