

[REDACTED]

From: Sorsby Family [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 November 2021 15:35
To: Local Plan
Subject: Objection to WBC Proposed Submission Version Local Plan

I object to Warrington Borough Council's updated proposed submission version local plan.

I do not believe the plan is fit for purpose and does not reflect the needs of the town now nor in the future.

The greenbelt and countryside has become more important than ever to WBC residents and access to natural surroundings has been imperative during these very difficult times. We have all enjoyed having access to nearby countryside and this has helped to improve our mental and physical wellbeing during the pandemic. This local plan would vastly change the feel and look of the villages and countryside in South Warrington and I do not believe it meets the requirements of what the town needs or wants.

There is no commitment to focus on regeneration of brownfield sites first. The plan should be focussing on improving the town centre and providing more housing around this area which would meet the needs of the youngsters of the town seeking their first home.

With regards to Thelwall Heys, I am very confused as to why this has suddenly been added to the plan eg it wasn't suitable 3 years ago in the PDO but now is, what's changed?

Thelwall Heys contains 2/3 top quality grade 1 and 2 agricultural land, which is far greater than the vast majority of agricultural land in Cheshire, this should be protected. It has Special Landscape Character containing a grade 2 listed building, other heritage buildings and also the listed Pickerings Bridge. If housing was built around the houses and bridge this would fundamentally change the area. I dispute the findings of the council's heritage survey that states this damage could be mitigated. This development would affect the canal and Trans Pennine Trail. This area provides a tranquil space and countryside for the residents of Thelwall which would be lost if the development went ahead.

Lastly, I do not feel the council have adequately promoted this consultation. This consultation has occurred during a pandemic and little has been done to advertise it. Given the vast change to the landscape and villages of South Warrington, surely a letter should have been posted to residents or at the very least put some posters up in neighbourhoods advising them of the plan and giving them the opportunity to respond. The Council should be looking to bring residents on board and working with them rather than quietly pushing through a local plan which is not fit for purpose and does not meet the needs of residents now nor in the future. Our countryside is too important to lose, please choose brownfield first, improve our town centre so that it is a safe and welcoming place for youngsters to live and protect as much of our countryside as possible.

Regards

Kate Sorsby
[REDACTED]