From:
To:
Local Plan

**Subject:** local plan consultation **Date:** 14 November 2021 20:26:29

I wish to comment on the proposed local plan development for Warrington.

I strongly oppose the high number of homes to be built in the area as I do not think they are justified given the latest population growth predictions. I especially object to the amount of 'green belt' land which is to be lost to development. Houses should be built on 'brownfield' sites before land is released from the 'green belt'. The areas in South Warrington which are targeted are presently mainly villages, however these will be lost to become urban sprawl under the plans.

There is no improved infrastructure planned for the South Warrington area. The roads are already under huge pressure from the numbers of cars using them and Stockton Heath areas are frequently gridlocked especially when there are incidents on the M56 and M6. Facilities such as medical centres, schools and leisure facilities are stretched to their limits. There has only been 1 primary school built in the South Warrington area and no high school in the last 30 years, since the development of Dudlows Green, Pewterspear and Grappenhall Heyes despite promises to the contrary years ago. Bridgewater High School is having to extend the number of classes in the years 7 and 8 at it's lower site next year to accomodate the growing demand so where are all the incoming children going to be educated?

## In summary --

- \* The infrastructure and facilities need upgrading before any building takes place.
- \* Brownfield sites should be used before green belt land is released
- \* The empty office blocks and redundant retail buildings in the town centre should be converted into housing. This would bring more life into the dying town and subsequently more demand for shops and increased use of the excellent restaurants and leisure facilities which are beginning to appear.
- \* Vast warehouses on open green land will benefit nobody.
- \* The loss of traditional villages and open land and woodland will not only ruin the lovely areas that make up South Warrington but will damage the local ecology. The estimated number of houses to be built could increase the numbers of cars on the roads around South Warrington by nearly 10,000, how is this justified in an age where climate change is a huge issue?
- \* This planned urban sprawl is likely to be similar to the dreadful Chapelford which has encountered many social problems due to a vast development with few facilities and no sense of community.

As a long term resident of South Warrington I urge the planners to reconsider this dreadful error of judgement. Once torn up and concreted over this land and these villages are gone forever, and make the area unattractive for future generations.

Regard Olive Stephens