

[REDACTED]

From: Claire Broadhurst [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 November 2021 22:52
To: Local Plan
Subject: Warrington Local Plan consultation

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to submit my opposition to the proposed local plan. The plan is not sound.

There is no justification for the predicted growth. The forecasted growth is unrealistic, with predictions based on development at rates not achieved before and seem to be driven by new housing. There is no detail of how the plan will actually result in regeneration of the town centre or preserve the identity and character of the area. Most people already commute out of the area for work and shopping and the plan doesn't address this. There is no explanation of how the already poor transport infrastructure of south Warrington can cope with increased levels of traffic created by the increased volume of housing. The route from south Warrington into the town centre already relies on inadequate bridges over the Ship Canal and Bridgewater Canal which creates too much congestion. This deters people from using the leisure and shopping facilities within our own area, and many people find it easier to go out of town for these resources. The Plan doesn't address this, there is no new route into town proposed, the plan is dependent on roads and bridges already overstretched, and the plan doesn't address how increased traffic on these ageing and overloaded crossings can be accommodated.

There is no need for the volume of housing and mass of employment land. The expansion of warehouse facilities will not create significant employment because of modern automated practices. New homes in the south of Warrington would be too far away from either of the train stations, meaning more cars on the roads. The majority of housing will not be affordable for local people. And affordable homes should be located near appropriate facilities, not on green belt. Important services such as doctors surgeries, dentists and health care are already overstretched and cannot cope with the proposed increase of housing in south Warrington.

There is no justification for the scale of green belt release. The existing green belt boundary was supposed to be kept for 20 years, and to go back on this erodes all trust in the town council. The plan should instead look at more brownfield sites rather than irreversibly raiding the green belt. The environmental and ecological impacts of the loss of this green belt have not been properly assessed.

The plan would also destroy the landscape and character of our villages.

I would also like to say that the Council have not consulted adequately enough on the plan. I have only just heard about it, with less than 24 hours before consultation closes. There has been no transparency about the plan or the impacts of the proposed developments. Information does not appear widespread.

Kind Regards

Claire Broadhurst