

From: jill Osborne [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 November 2021 10:55
To: Local Plan
Subject: Objection to the proposed local plan 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

Having read through the proposed local plan submitted by Warrington Borough Council I would like to write to you with my objection to the entire proposal.

As a resident of Stretton, South Warrington, my objection is based on the following:

1. WBC have not held an appropriate or adequate consultation process for the plan. I feel that the consultation that they have held is merely a tick the box exercise. Many local residents have no idea of what is being proposed by the council, it has not been highly publicised by the council but rather left to Parish Councils and social media objection groups to share. The documentation that WBC have issued is difficult for lay folk to understand and the maps used are difficult to follow. WBC did have some meetings at the Halliwell Jones stadium which is in North Warrington which with present traffic conditions through the town it is difficult to get to from South Warrington. Considering that the majority of proposed development is in South Warrington they should have held meetings in South Warrington which would have been more accessible for local people.
2. I believe that the council have not fully prioritised the use of brownfield sites before Greenbelt. Stretton is heavily affected by residential development in the proposed plan and will lose the majority of its greenbelt land if it goes ahead. With this in mind I feel that there should be a mention of the new proposed hospital for Warrington. The results from the Councils bid for a hospital come in Spring 2022 and if Warrington are granted a new hospital where will it be? The old hospital land will become a huge Brownfield site for development. If however Warrington do not win the bid for a new hospital then this plan is by no means sustainable as there is no way that the current hospital would cope with 1000's of new residents within the town due to the fact that it presently struggles with current numbers.
3. Another point on infrastructure. I do feel that there is a complete lack of consideration towards social and leisure infrastructure for the whole of South Warrington at present. The proposed plan does little to assist this requirement and again proves to be unsustainable. In particular where Stretton is concerned the proposed development relies on the existing Pewterspear Green for green, open space within the Parish. This should not be included in this plan as it is part of the previous New Town plan. A new allowance for green open space should be included in Stretton to accommodate the new residents that the proposed development will bring. Green open space has been highlighted as a requirement for physical and mental health and wellbeing throughout the covid pandemic and is something that should be seriously considered in this plan.
4. Further more with regards to leisure facilities. At present the Parishes of Stretton, Appleton, Stockton Heath, Walton, Grappenhall, Hatton and Thelwall all rely on one outdated and totally run down leisure centre. Before any new development proceeds new leisure facilities are an absolute MUST and must be developed BEFORE any more houses. This also applies to Drs, Dentists and schools as locally these services cannot cope with current demand.
5. I notice in the plan that there has been some allowance for disabled homes. It is all well and good to put these in the plan to "tick the box" however there is no other provisions for people with disabilities. At present in Warrington there is one specialised school for children with disabilities and one sensory play centre both of which are in North Warrington. There are very limited parks and playgrounds with disabled equipment and none of those are in South Warrington. The Local Plan is supposed to cater for every resident within the town however again proves to be unsustainable with no further facilities, particularly in South Warrington for people with disabilities.

6. My final objection based on infrastructure is that relating to roads and highways. At present the traffic density throughout the whole of Warrington is high. As I mentioned earlier for a resident of South Warrington to reach somewhere North of the town it is difficult and time consuming and often results in residents instead choosing to use the M56 to shop in neighbouring towns and cities. The proposed plan does nothing to appease the traffic and congestion within the town and nothing to encourage residents from South Warrington into the town Centre or North of the town to shop and work. There is a new road proposed from Stretton through the proposed South Warrington Urban Extension all of which leads back to the A49 - the current main road, through Stockton Heath and into Warrington. This road is already too busy and often sees traffic build up to and from the M56 junction through Stretton, Stockton Heath and into Warrington. With the proposed plan 1000's more vehicles are expected to use this route which is completely unsustainable.

7. Bad air quality is also a result of the traffic in Warrington. It is well known that as a town we have unacceptable levels of air quality. I believe that Stockton Heath Parish Council have invested in an air quality monitor and the results locally have been terrible. This can only expect to worsen with the proposed plan due to the increase of traffic and the removal of greenbelt "the lungs of the town."

8. As a resident of Stretton I feel that the village will completely lose its identity within this plan. Stretton is a historic, semi-rural village already divided by the M56 motorway roundabout. Regardless of this the community has managed to remain united and maintain its identity. The over development proposed by this plan will completely destroy that as there is no provision for green, open space within the village in the new plan. Stretton has already received a large amount of development over the last few years with approximately 400 houses built in the village. The increase of the local population has already shown a huge strain on local services and there is no way that further building would be sustained without any form of infrastructure first.

The above are the main points that I would like to submit my objection on. There are many more but as an entity I feel that the plan is ill thought out and completely unsustainable.

Kind Regards,

Jill Osborne