

[REDACTED]

From: Sarah Williams [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 November 2021 11:22
To: Local Plan
Subject: Objections to the current local plan

I am writing to object to the current local plan for Warrington.

I moved to this area from the south of England approximately 9 years ago. We were attracted to Warrington because it was relatively small but within close proximity to larger cities. What we absolutely loved was the amount of green space on our doorstep; the ability to be in countryside within a few minutes of leaving our home.

Whilst we were aware of the Homes for England plans to build on some of the areas we have enjoyed walking in til now, we were not prepared for the lack of supporting services and infrastructure. We were not prepared for a total disregard from the decision makers for the concerns of local people who already live in the area. We were not prepared for the big push to persist in building both housing and warehouse style / 'employment' opportunities on green belt sites, when other brownfield sites are available and have not been considered first.

So my objections to the local plan, which I do not believe to be sound, are as follows:

- I do not feel the number of houses proposed reflects the estimated growth of the population (the number of proposed homes is unnecessarily high)
- Whilst brownfield sites are being considered they are not being prioritised ahead of green belt areas such as Thelwall Heys and Peel Hall
- I do not feel that 6/56 will bring many diverse employment opportunities for the scale of the project and without developing infrastructure around this site, it may well be that our green belt is lost for minimal gain in terms of employment - leaving units empty and unused at great cost to the environment.
- Our city centre is dwindling rapidly as more and more out of town retail parks are being built. It would be far more beneficial to use existing facilities first and adapt what we have before building on current green spaces. There is so much potential in town - as evidenced by the work done around the market place - Warrington could be a vibrant town with a range of options for city centre living and employment if money was invested wisely on regeneration rather than focussing on building from scratch in out of town areas.
- The lack of infrastructure across Warrington:

We are geographically located between a major motorway network as well as natural and manmade waterways which already have an impact on traffic and congestion. The moment there is an issue on any of the local motorways, Warrington is gridlocked. Stockton Heath high street is often congested as is the area around the Cat & Lion or the roundabout complex from Lymm Services - Grappenhall Lane. I do not see how this is being addressed - traffic surveys should be completed over a period of time, not just on one day and must consider peak hours of travel as opposed to summer months. I do not see how this area can support the number of houses / warehouses that are being proposed across the board in terms of the amount of traffic that will be generated.

Similarly there is a lack of thought and planning around how these new homes will be supported by health, education and community services, many of which are already underfunded and stretched to breaking point. Any new building must consider the physical and mental health of the communities living there. By taking away our opportunities to go out and enjoy nature, by building on established woodland and parkland, the

mental and physical health and well being of local people is not being considered. Rather than plant new trees that take years to become established - consider building elsewhere first. Additionally aspects such as managing (dare I even say, improving) air quality do not seem to have been accounted for, despite already being an issue.

I am generally disappointed by the attitudes of those making decisions on behalf of the people of Warrington. Despite sending in this summary of concerns I feel little will be done to address any of it or even care about our opinions for what we consider to be an un-sound local plan.

I hope that the above will go some way to highlight how strongly many people in the area I live in feel: our concerns that this area is being eroded of natural beauty and increasingly degraded environmentally, where little regard is given to how such changes will be implemented or managed long term.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and hopefully take into account that I do not feel that the current local plan is sound.

Sarah Williams

