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**From:** Sarah Pomfret (Strategy and Transformation) [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 15 November 2021 11:26  
**To:** Local Plan  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Objection to Local Plan - Sarah Pomfret [REDACTED]

To whom It May Concern.

It is with great disappointment that I am writing again to object to the Warrington Local Plan. Despite the thousands of objections to the last local plan, the reviews within central government about using Green Belt land for development and the pandemic when the need for green open spaces was invaluable, this Local plan is still proposing to destroy swathes of green belt in South Warrington to accommodate an "Urban extension". I am opposing the approval of this local plan for many reasons

#### Green Belt

You are proposing to destroy 1400 acres of Green Belt land by releasing it for development, 1000 acres of that is in South Warrington. Why destroy green belt when there are brownfield sites not developed, when there are offices no longer used that could be converted into affordable housing? You are proposing significant expansion of warehousing facilities, using a lot of land but not creating high quality jobs, and where employees will have to travel from outside the area as there will not be affordable housing within the area ( Developers will only need to build 30 % affordable housing, and affordable housing in South Warrington is not affordable for the majority – ongoing developments prove this). 7 years ago you confirmed the Green Belt boundaries that were supposed to be good for another 20 years yet you are proposing to destroy the green belt. Most importantly, the environmental and ecological impact of the loss of green belt does not seem to have been properly assessed in the revised plan. While I accept there have been amendments made to the plan, those changes do not address the fundamental issue that brownbelt, or redevelopment of already existing residential land, should be being used to meet the target and not green belt. There is NO justification for the scale of Green Belt Release.

#### Housing/ Infrastructure

This is a really important issue for me, and one not addressed in the new proposed Local Plan. Nothing has been done to improve the proposed Infrastructure if the proposed 2400 ( maybe upto 4200) houses are built in South Warrington. The houses are being proposed too far from both the town's railway stations, promoting more use of cars in the area. There is no concrete proposals to improve the road network into the South of Warrington, meaning the Plan still relies on three Victorian Swing Bridges over the Ship Canal. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan is dependent on already overstretched roads. The plan to get more people out of cars, and on to public transport cannot and will not succeed by implementing this plan. Even with new houses already being built in South Warrington areas ,the buses, in some areas, are only every two hours – therefore not practical to use, which in itself then leads to empty buses so more buses are not laid on. This plan relies on increasing reliance on road traffic which is wholly inconsistent with the UK's Climate Change aspirations.

#### Ecological Impact/Climate/Air Quality

At a time when we HAVE to take responsibility for looking after the earth, you are proposing to destroy more green belt land. We should be looking out for wildlife, ensuring cleaner air quality, reducing our reliance on cars, but this plan is proposing to ignore all of those things and still insists large numbers of big houses are needed to be built on green belt land. Having followed COP26 over the last couple of weeks – how can this plan say it follows those principles.

Finally, the plan is not fit for purpose. It does not seem deliverable, looking at the historic number of houses built in this area. Details of infrastructure developments are vague and not included in the Local plan. These need to be defined before the true impact of the plan can be assessed. There is no detail of how this Plan will actually result in

the regeneration of the Town Centre, or preserve the identity and distinctive character of Warrington, both of which are Warrington Council policy objectives. It definitely does not show convincingly what the "exceptional circumstances" are for development of Green Belt. In all likelihood houses will be built on greenbelt land without the necessary supporting infrastructure and we will have sacrificed our greenbelt land on an over ambitious local plan.

I respectfully request my objections to the Local Plan are noted and taken into consideration and changes made to the plan before it is passed and the town of Warrington destroyed.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Pomfret

**Sarah Pomfret**



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