

[REDACTED]

From: David Bogg [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 November 2021 15:51
To: Local Plan
Subject: Warrington Local Plan Consultation Feedback

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to record my objection to the revised Warrington Local Plan and in particular the destruction of the character and distinctive nature of South Warrington with the proposal of a minimum of 4200 new homes in Grappenhall, Appleton, Appleton Thorn and Stretton.

There is no justification for the destruction and subsequent impact of Green Belt land, by definition Green Belt sites are designated zones whose fundamental purpose is to prevent urban sprawl. The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government have gone as far as to suggest that once Green Belt land has been identified, it is only in the most "exceptional of circumstances" that any type of development could be approved on this land, and that the "need for development" is not a sound enough reason when councils develop their local plans.

I understand that local authorities are under pressure to demonstrate a five year supply of land and I have full sympathy with young people who cannot afford to buy a house (having two sons in this situation) however there is no justification that increasing supply will lower house prices, the housing crisis will not be resolved by building on Green Belt land.

Green Belt land should be a last resort strategy and only when we have exhausted all other land in our district. Urban sprawl is the biggest threat to climate change, sprawl is low density, it is resource hungry and an inefficient use of land. Brownfield land is a renewable source, the Green Belt is not, and we are not running out of brownfield land anytime soon.

The local plan should concentrate on the regeneration of Warrington starting at the centre, if the local economy doesn't prosper, no one will be able to afford a house, Agriculture, factories and business centres must all be considered. For example:

- Total income from farming in the North West region is on the increase, figures for the period 2015 -19 show an increase of 4% to £142 million (Defra Statics: Agricultural Facts, March 2021). Changes to farming policy will see a move away from cattle and meat and more towards plant-based proteins as this will create a more sustainable farming and food supply, a healthier environment, a reduction in air pollution and hence global warming.
- Business are undergoing significant changes through digital transformation, ensuring Warrington has world leading digital infrastructure will attract new businesses, this in turn will create a thriving ecosystem such as hospitality.
- Physical connectivity is also critical via integrated green transport – trams, trains and bus services, decreasing the reliance on cars thereby reducing congestion and pollutants, providing an increase in air quality and hence a healthier environment to live – for all ages. Air pollution is one of the biggest killers in the UK, responsible for 40,000 early deaths every year - it contributes to heart and respiratory disease, including the development of asthma, and causes lung cancer (as highlighted in a recent report by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) and the Royal College of Physicians).
- The health problems resulting from exposure to air pollution also have a high cost to society and business, our health services, and people who suffer from illness. In the UK, these add up to more than £20 billion every year. WBC's own figures show 60% of measured sites already exceed targets for harmful air pollution. The trend is only rising and will get worse with increased congestion,
- To ensure a long and healthy life we need to invest in an appropriate local health care system, increasing the population will increase the demands of an already over-stretched main hospital and local medical centres.

All the above will increase income and prosperity to Warrington. I have lived and worked in Warrington all my life as did my parents, please involve the local people in making the right decisions, as together we can Build Back Warrington Better and Greener for generations to come.

I look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the sender.

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