

[REDACTED]

From: Jean Waite [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 November 2021 16:00
To: Local Plan
Subject: My objections to the local plan

I have been a resident of South Warrington for over 70 years and have observed the growth of the town including the period of Warrington New Town Development Corporation. I am horrified and devastated at the current plans to desecrate our heritage of characterful villages adjacent to green belt countryside, available as a 'green lung' to the residents of the town. The recent COP26 summit has so effectively demonstrated that we cannot turn back the clock on mistakes made by previous generations, but we do have a moral duty to protect our heritage for future generations, particularly in terms of pollution and the protection of the ecology of our environments. This plan runs contrary to these lessons learnt and my specific objections are as follows

Predicted growth

Warrington is already the largest town in Cheshire. No justification has been put forward for this attempt to attract further growth – not to meet the needs of the current population but to attract even greater population growth from outside the area. Our town is already struggling with extreme problems related to transportation and pollution – our council should be concentrating on resolving the issues we already have, not to implement a plan which will just make these problems worse. There is nothing in this plan which realistically acknowledges and plans for the extreme pressures on our services, infrastructure and transportation issues which will result from this plan. These issues already exist and need to be addressed, not exacerbated.

Green Belt

There is no adequate 'exceptional' rationale given for the removal of land from the green belt

The plan removes vast tracts of land from the green belt, and this theft is particularly concentrated in the south Warrington area, 1000 out of the proposed 1400 acres. This would have a great ecological and environmental impact on the area, which has not been fully evaluated. The building work currently being carried out is already changing completely the character of the area, and we cannot allow this to happen to the proposed, much larger, area of land.

Pollution

The impact of this large development area, with no local rail access, will increase traffic flow, increase traffic pollution, and add the already frequent major traffic logjams caused by our proximity to the M56/M6 which results in the A49/A56 area being used as a diversion on a regular basis. There are often jams lasting hours long

on these local major roads and this plan can only make this unacceptable situation worse.

Environment

Regeneration of town centre and preservation of the character and of our villages is a policy objective – these proposals completely contradict this policy. South Warrington will be come an urban sprawl, with no delineation of our villages. This plan includes no indication of how the much needed town centre regeneration will restore the character of the town centre. We are fortunate in having a number of beautiful buildings, especially those in the lower part of Bridge Street which are being allowed to fall into decay. The current town planning seems to be ignoring these architectural gems, and just approving the building more multi-storey, characterless commercial properties to the North of the Town Centre. Pursuance of this plan will divert funding from the restoration of the lower town centre to these new, over ambitious proposals.

Jean Waite

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