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Sent: 15 November 2021 16:44
To: Local Plan
Subject: Comments to be submitted to WBC Local Plan Consultation

Response to Local Plan Consultation 2021

Apologises for the last minute response. I would like to comment specifically on the plan in relation to the South of Warrington.

Green Belt Release

While the limited reduction in the release of the Green Belt is welcome what remains is still wildly disproportionate in the impact and damage to the South of Warrington. The further consideration of Brownfield while welcome is not enough, and all Brownfield sites should be utilised before any Green Belt is released.

The builders and developers will always opt for Green Belt as it is much easier and more profit making for them.

The assessment of the Garden Suburb option states it is clearly an incursion on undeveloped countryside. I would challenge the assessment that it does not create a sprawl. It clearly does, especially across the fields and countryside surrounding Stretton, Appleton Thorn, Appleton and Grappenhall and impacts on the character of those historic villages and the local residents.

Congestion, Pollution and Environmental Impact

While the world leaders are trying to reduce carbon, pollution and protect trees and wildlife, WBC with these plans seem hell bent on significantly increasing the already poor air quality, noise pollution and damage to the ecology of the area caused by the M56 and M6 and many busy surrounding A Roads.

I do not believe there is any justification for the huge impact this development will have on Junction 20 of the M6 and Junction 10 of the M56. As residents, the noise and pollution is often at unacceptable levels as is the daily congestion, often making our lives very difficult.

The increase in houses and cars and the addition of yet another busy road, which will become a rat run for lorries heading for the in-land border site and various existing logistics sites (even before more are added) can only make this so much worse. The proposed new junction on the A49 Tarporley alongside the new road shows a massive disregard for the residents of Stretton, Appleton Thorn and the surrounding districts.

The infrastructure is in no way adequate to cope with 100s more houses – all the bridges into the town centre are struggling already and Stockton Heath is a permanent traffic jam at many times during the day causing even more pollution.

The further expansion of the logistics sites brings very minimal benefits in terms of employment for local people. Most employees will drive to those sites from outside of the area and cause further congestion and pollution. Many jobs created will over the next decade disappear as technology replaces them.

In summary

I still see no justification for the level of growth across the plan but specifically in relation to the South of Warrington which is both disproportionate and unfair. The housing numbers are unrealistic and in the wrong place – affordable and sustainable housing needs to be nearer the Town centre and closer to the main transport links. Building houses where the plan is suggested is putting profit before anything else.

The wilful destruction of the Green Belt threatens the health and wellbeing of many people with a rise in pollution, carbon emissions and loss of countryside. Surely we have all learnt this cannot be allowed as the rest of the country and the world battle climate change. This is an irresponsible and ill thought through plan proposed by the Council with little regard to many of the residents and communities in South Warrington. Historic and characterful villages will be irrevocably damaged and the health of their residents put at risk.

I would ask that all these points are considered and the local plan is revised to provided a better, healthy and more sustainable life for all residents.

Many thanks

Nicky Martin

