



6/11/21

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to object to the local plan in particular the 'Urban Extension' in South Warrington. I understand that some development is needed but there are better, less harmful ways of delivering it than destroying Green Belt in the south of Warrington. The new 'revised local plan' has no different approach to the one previously published.

As a resident of Appleton/Stretton it is extremely concerning that the local plan is very vague about infrastructure and where future roads are going to be built. It is worrying to think a new road could be built within very close proximity to my home and cause massive increase in noise and air pollution. The vagueness of infrastructure planning is also concerning as it seems it has not been thought through with care. Infrastructure should come before development and this is not clear in the plan. It seems that developers will be able to cherry pick plots of land to develop over coming years and infrastructure will or might come later.

In addition to this, the south of Warrington does not have good public transport links and the nearest railways station is the town centre. To get to our town centre from the South of Warrington we have to cross one of three Victorian swing bridges. These routes are already considerably congested and building the sheer volume of houses here that you intend to will add to this. With no rail links people will need to drive into town and traffic will worsen. Even to get to the nearest supermarket people have to crawl through these already congested routes and swing bridges. The new road built linking Chester Road to Bank Quay area has been very poorly planned and causes further congestion. It is very difficult to get out on to Chester Road from Gainsborough Road or from near the junction at the Stag Pub. The traffic lights stop the traffic and block the road for cars trying to turn right on already extremely busy road. This does not help travel into the town center and still requires crossing the swing bridge or travelling down extremely narrow and residential roads near Hill Cliffe.

The lack of infrastructure and poor access to the town centre will just encourage people to use motorway links and drive to Liverpool and Manchester for work, leisure, shopping instead and therefore will not help the economic development of our town. I believe it would be much more beneficial to develop areas around our town centre and put money into developing a town centre that attracts people to live, work, eat and shop there.

In addition to this the plan does not show convincingly what the 'exceptional circumstances' are for development on green belt land. Green belt is precious and should not be developed. We should not be destroying green space and animals habitats when there are brown field sites that could be utilized much more. I support the development of the Fiddlers Ferry site and think that this along with town centre development makes much more sense to help save the environment and combat climate change. Furthermore, I know of primary schools close to Fiddlers Ferry with very low class numbers. It makes sense to develop this area, attract more people to live there and in turn return class sizes to normal there before building new schools elsewhere.

Destroying Green Belt will destroy the landscape and character of our South Warrington villages. Many people use the area as place to walk, cycle, run as the green open space is good for people's mental health. There will be very few green spaces left in Warrington should this plan go ahead. The town is becoming one big housing estate and I will certainly be looking to move out of my hometown should these plans go ahead. There will simply be no desirable place in Warrington left to live that has surrounding green belt and character.

Finally, as a local resident who is currently waiting for medical treatment at Warrington and Halton Hospital it is extremely concerning that over 4200 more families (not including the rest of the developments proposed in Warrington) will be need to be treated at these hospitals. I have already been waiting a considerable time for appointments in a very strained NHS hospital. It is clear that there is not the capacity at these hospitals for increasing population in Warrington.

To summarize, I object to the South Warrington Urban Development plan because:

- No justification for predicted growth
- No need for the volume of housing and mass of employment land
- No justification for scale of greenbelt release
- No need to harm air quality and local ecology
- No need to destroy landscape and character of our villages
- No clarity on the means of delivery
- No explanation of how the already poor transport infrastructure of South Warrington can cope with increased levels of traffic
- No thought to health care and hospital access for thousands more people
- Lack of green, undeveloped space with have a detrimental to mental health of Warrington residents.

I urge you to listen before it is too late. Once our villages and green belts are destroyed there is no going back.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Ruddy