

Warrington Borough Council. 2021 Revised Local Plan Consultations

. Objections to proposed development on Thelwall Heys:

I do not think that the part of the Revised Local Plan referring to Thelwall Heys is sound because:

- DEFRA surveyed this land and found that 68% was top quality agricultural Grade 1 & 2 and therefore deserves to be saved for agriculture, wildlife and a carbon sink.
- It has been found that grassland has even more carbon capturing abilities and combined with trees and hedgerows is of extreme importance in combatting climate change. Warrington should consider the climate emergency seriously and not wreck this area.
- In 2004 WBC commissioned a landscape appraisal of Thelwall Heys the area was deemed to be of a landscape type worthy of 'special landscape character status' due to its pasture, hedgerows and mature trees . All these aspects will assist in carbon capture and contributing to the good health of the area. Any new development would increase the emission of carbon and it would be at least thirty years until any new resident tree plantings would be mature enough to compensate for the desecration of this area.
- The Grade 2 Thelwall Heys property would be radically compromised if it were to become an island in a sea of carbon emitting development.
- There is no confirmation that the Thelwall Heys area has changed since a 2004 environmental survey discovered 32 different bird species inhabited the area including the endangered Skylark, Tree Sparrow, Reed Bunting etc all of which are of county significance. The 6 week consultation period has not allowed for the area to be properly studied again.
- The whole of the Thelwall Heys area was placed into the Green Belt at the start of the 2000s and when developers tried to overrule this decision, Warrington Borough Council defended this green belt area. Why has the council not continued to do so as this environment has not changed and its quality has become of even greater significance.
- The walking and health facilities of this important green lung offered by Thelwall Heys within the TPT and Bridgewater Canal are highly valued by local people and visitors from the rest of Warrington. If this area were to be despoiled by housing it would deny people yet another relaxing amenity, so important in these times of major stress.

Vivien Hainsworth



10th. November 2021