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17th July 2012

Development Services Manager Development Services, Warwick District Council Riverside House Milverton Hill Royal Leamington Spa. CV325QH



Dear Sir or Madam,

Re: New Local Plan

We would like to make a formal objection to the Councils proposals to the New Local Plan to allow development on Green Belt Land to the North of Royal Leamington Spa.

We clearly recognise that land for future development has to be identified and made available in the long term and appreciate that decisions are sometimes unpopular and contentious, and this area may be identified in that way.

We believe that this proposed development goes against the very nature of the Green Belt Policy, and ignoring these principles to push through development is a blatant disregard for national polices.

We would assume that a responsible council would only reach that decision having first identified that all other, less important and contentious sites, have been developed and the only future option would be to encroach into the Green Belt.

We are also concerned that Coventry City Council are also looking for development sites to the southwest of the City which can only increase the pressure on Green Belt land.

The site lies within green belt and the whole purpose of green belt is surely to safeguard the countryside from encroachment and prevents urban sprawl. It helps preserve the character of this important historic area. It provides important agricultural land. It retains attractive landscapes near where people live. It helps secure nature conservation areas.

So why, when other sites in Leamington have been identified as suitable and not in Green Belt have the Council come up with this proposal in contravention of Green Belt policy?

Part of the proposed area is elevated and highly visible site, clearly viewed from the approach on the A455 into and when leaving the Town boundary. This important landscape character is an important transition when leaving the urban area. So any proposed development on elevated ground will have serious impact and blot on the landscape. The countryside beyond the identified site becomes flat and less interesting.

Please would you acknowledge my letter and seriously consider its contents. We fully understand that there will always be objections to future development but on this occasion we hope that you will look towards sites that have already been identified, with less damage and impact on the Green Belt North of Royal Leamington Spa.

