Development Policy Manager, Development Services, Warwick District Council, Riverside House, Milverton Hill, Leamington Spa, CV32 5QH



23rd July 2012

Dear Sir.

There has been a great amount of coverage in the local media recently about proposed new housing development in Leamington which we have been considering objectively. Whilst we understand the need for new housing in the town to cater for growth, we feel we must register our objections to the development being put forward for North Leamington for a number of reasons.

To begin with, it seems to defy common sense that land that has been designated Green Belt for very good and justified reasons should be developed when there are other more suitable options available.

However, our strongest objection to the proposed development, having lived in Milverton for the past 26 years and experienced the ever increasing traffic congestion, is the infrastructure in North Leamington that will clearly not cope without massive additional investment. Getting around the vicinity where we live is constantly affected by the need to travel over or under rivers (the Leam and Avon), two separate railway routes (the former GWR and LMS lines) and the Grand Union Canal. In our view there will need to be huge and unprecedented investment in building new crossing points over or under these obstacles if there is not to be traffic chaos bordering on gridlock at times given the inevitable increase in road traffic that such a large housing development will bring to the area.

Merely building new roads without tackling this problem will just move the bottleneck from one area to another. Even if the necessary investment in infrastructure is practically possible, the huge financial cost is absolute madness when there are other areas on the southern side of Leamington that already have a much better infrastructure, without the constraints of North Leamington, that could be sensibly developed.

We would, therefore, urge that you please reconsider your proposals for the housing development in North Leamington before irrevocable damage is done to our local environment, with the risk of reckless and unnecessary spending on infrastructure that will in all probability prove inadequate in any case.

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