

From  
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**Warwick District Local Plan: Revised Development Strategy, July 2013**

I most strongly object to this plan on the following grounds:

**1. Air quality.**

Pollution from motor vehicles is well documented to be in excess of legal limits in many parts of Warwick where measurements are taken and probably at even higher levels where measurements are not taken.

The plan does nothing to address this health hazard. On the contrary, and by any reckoning, it will worsen the situation.

The Plan is a 'traffic generator'. It will cause more traffic to pass through the town<sup>1</sup>. This is acknowledged by the experts appointed by those responsible for devising the Plan. The mitigation measures will do nothing to reduce the levels of pollution. Pollution levels will rise, traffic flow will increase in speed creating additional environmental and safety hazards for people.

I find it very hard to understand how some politicians and professional officers elected and employed to serve their residents could be promoting a plan that ignores legislation on air quality and seeks to worsen the situation. Such action is highly reprehensible.

**2. Loss of green space**

It is clear from debate taking place at national level that the Government's guidance to local authorities on the freeing up of space for housing did not intend to provoke a wanton disregard for green space.

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<sup>1</sup> It has been established that 76% of all motor vehicles in Warwick are 'through traffic'.

Members of Parliament are concerned about local authorities *misinterpreting and abusing*<sup>2</sup> new planning powers by earmarking vast tracts of countryside for house building. An All-party Group of MPs on Green Belt Protection has been formed.

The current Warwick District Local Plan is an example of such 'misinterpretation' and 'abuse'.

**3. The lack of any 'bigger picture'**

The number of new homes said to be required in the district, and incorporated in the Plan, is excessive, out of context and without credible justification.

There appears to have been no consultation with other adjoining authorities – especially those that have announced major housing and other economic development related plans. One such example would be the intention of Stratford upon Avon local authority to undertake substantial house building in support of the planned major investment in the motor industry in the Gaydon area. This is close to where the Warwick District Plan envisages the bulk of its future housing stock to be located.

The accumulative effect has not been taken into account.

There is similarly no reference to 'empty property' in any of the Local Plan documentation and how this might be handled to impact positively upon housing supply and demand.

Much of the County Town of Warwick is 'listed' to be of national historical importance. The local Plan makes no concessions to this. By contrast it entirely disregards that special status and will be destructive.

The Warwick District Local Plan is a disgrace and I urge you and your colleagues to think again and, in so doing, listen to those you are appointed to serve.



cc.

Chris White MP

Nick Bowles MP, Chair of the All-Party Group on Green Belt Protection

Dr John Linnane, County Medical Officer of Health

James McKay, Chair, Warwick Society.

Elizabeth Higgins, Mandy Littlejohn, Linda Bromly, Local Councillors

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<sup>2</sup> Sunday Times 21 July 2013. Page 2