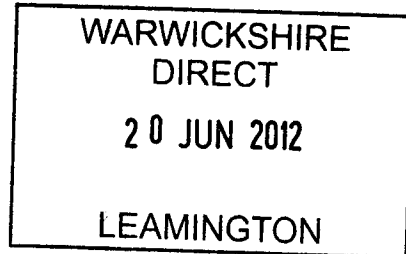


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LocalPlanRAJun12



17 June 2012

Dear Sir,

Local Plan Preferred Options Consultation

Thank you for your consultation letter of 31st May 2012. The Ramblers Association has two principal interests, namely protecting and enhancing the public path network and access to the countryside, and protection of the countryside itself. These interests make it difficult to comment on each particular policy.

In general, however, we welcome the key principles of sustainability, as it implies good access (including on foot) within developments, and ensuring the countryside is maintained and improved (e.g. para. 4.14.4 and 4.15.13). It is also noted that this is taken through to recognising that it is important to 'maximise linkages and access to the wider countryside' in para. 5.25, a point I have continually made for many years, as well as promoting sustainable forms of transport, such as walking (para. 5.26) and the second bullet point under 13.10.

In the case of Green Infrastructure (para. 5.27) it is considered that the former Warwick Castle Park should be identified for enhancement and as a 'Green Wedge' by way of creating public access, as well as adding Jephson Farm into the public park network of the river valley. (This latter point would enable a much improved River Walk path to be provided, instead of the very narrow, fenced, section beside the railway off the canal.)

We have no real comments to make on the level of provision of new housing, and employment, but we are concerned about the longer 'finger' of development shown beside the Banbury Road down to, and beyond, The Asps. However, if this was to be confirmed, it would strongly support the need for public paths (and cycleways) to link across the Castle Park, e.g. to provide access between this area and Aylesford School.

Dave Barber

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