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28th June 2013

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

RE: Local Plan Consultation – Revised Development Strategy

Dear Sir/Madam,



Thank you very much for this further opportunity to be consulted on the emerging Local Plan. **We are writing in support of the "Revised Development Strategy"**.

The need to accommodate growth while balancing environmental factors is never easy, but we do believe the current document has got the balance right.

Last June, on reading the Council's "Preferred Options" we wrote to object to the proposal to develop the Green Belt to the north of Leamington Spa. We cited the National Planning Policy Framework guidance that "... Green Belt boundaries should only be altered in exceptional circumstances"¹.

We made it clear at that time, and continue to assert, that there are no exceptional circumstances which justify building on the Green Belt. We are very pleased that the Council has reviewed the capacity of Brownfield and non-Green Belt land to the south of Leamington/Warwick/Whitnash and concluded that these areas can accommodate more development than was originally foreseen.

¹ NPPF, Page 19, Paragraph 83.



We support the principle that new development should focus on areas of the District where existing job opportunities and infrastructure can support it. We believe that any new development should be properly planned and controlled, with sufficient investment in infrastructure and new roads to sustain it.

In our view, the Revised Development Strategy fulfils these objectives. It reduces the threat of traffic congestion and other attendant risks of pollution, and it delivers improved facilities in the form of schools and other services. Such benefits would not be achieved by building on Green Belt land to the north of Leamington.

For the reasons outlined above, we support the Revised Development Strategy.

We are aware that there remain continuing dangers to the Green Belt. Part of this stems from the need to consult with Coventry City Council on housing overspill, and part no doubt from the inevitable opposition of people living to the south of Leamington. In such circumstances, we feel it is even more important for us to make our views heard and to restate the sound planning principles on which our support for the Revised Development Strategy is based.

We look forward to receiving further information on the Local Plan following the current round of consultations in due course.

Yours faithfully,



Alex and Heather Holmes