



Mr J Lucas



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

The 5th of July 2012

Re: "Local Plan"

Dear Sir,

I have just been made aware of the document entitled "Local Plan", and the accompanying consultation programme. The first point I would like to make is that it is a bit late to hand out these documents when the consultation period is almost at an end.

Now to the plan itself:

On page 2, among the points that you have "identified as particularly important" are:

- "support the growth of the local economy".
You do not explain why. Why is growth necessary? As far as I can see the only benefactors of growth are those who invest money in the growth, leaving others to pick up the debts left at the end when it all crashes again. Surely it is enough for all of us to maintain a level income?
- "Maintain and promote thriving town centres".
If this so, then why are you giving planning permission to all the major supermarket chains to build wherever they want?
- "Provide for growth ... within the population" and "meet the housing need ... for around 550 new homes per year".
Where are these people coming from that require 550 new homes per year? I suspect it is simply the perceived need for young people to have their own house instead of either staying with their parents or sharing with others, as most young people have done in the past. This is purely another money making idea, again to generate more income for those who already have more than enough.

PO1, PO2, PO3, PO4

(and here your aimed housing growth has risen from 550 to 555 new homes per year).
As already mentioned above, there is no need for housing growth.

PO5

There is much talk of “affordable housing”. Why must all young people be expected to buy their own house? This has never been the case in the past – as stated above, young people have stayed with their parents longer, and then shared rented accommodation with others. The stated need for affordable housing is simply not true, but propagated by those with a vested interest

PO7

If we provide a campsite for travellers, will they pay for the use of such a site? If not then it should not be done.

PO8

You mention the Coventry and Warwickshire Gateway as a possible local employer. According to the developers, the majority of projected jobs in this development will come from outside the area (through relocation of existing units and their associated workforce, and also because the majority of drivers who deliver and collect from these units will be based elsewhere).

You also state that “economic growth generates wealth and raises living standards...” but you do not qualify for whom this is true. It generally only applies those who invest heavily in such growth, who then retire to leave the others to pick up the debts.

We do not want growth for the sake of growth, individuals are not concerned with generating wealth, they simply want to make a living, so why not encourage small businesses to thrive – how about reducing business rates in the town centres so that ordinary people can have a chance to earn a living?

PO9

Again, we do not want major new retail investment in Leamington town centre – we’ve had enough of these multi-national money making machines. Encourage the small shopkeeper or business to set up in the town.

PO10 & PO12 & PO14

You make no mention of the fact that Leamington is a transition town. How about banning the car entirely from the town?

PO16

There is no point whatsoever in designating green belt areas if you feel that you can simply change them when it suits you.

PO18

You state that “flooding is a natural process...”. In some cases this is true, but in the majority of cases, flooding results from poor planning and development.

Finally: you are the district council; you are run by district councillors who are elected by us to represent our views; so do not tell us what you are planning to do – let us tell you what we want you to do.

Yours faithfully

