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2 July 2012

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

Dear Sirs,

I am strongly opposed to building new housing developments on green belt land- especially to the north of Leamington.

It is a psychological fact that people need green spaces. (Just looking at a picture of a tree reduces blood pressure in a stressed person by a small but measurable amount. Actually walking among trees is much more soothing.) Building on green belt land means it is lost to us and future generations for ever, to the detriment of our mental health. Pulitzer prize winner, Professor E.O. Wilson, states that 'Homo Sapiens feel an innate preference for the natural environment that cradled us.' We did not evolve in housing estates, so to be able to easily reach and enjoy the countryside is necessary for us, and the more green belt land left untouched, the more easily we can access it.

I would also suggest that the proposed requirement of new housing is overstated, being based on a projection of past exceptional growth. We are now in a very different financial climate (and predictions of that suggest this will continue for some years to come,) so I can not understand why so many new homes are thought to be needed in an area where industry is declining. If it is because Leamington is considered a pleasant place to retire, then I would point out that the more people that are crammed into an area, the less desirable that area becomes to live in, so building more and more houses is rather self-defeating!

Surely enough non green belt land can be found to satisfy the number of new houses considered sensible. Why was Morrison's allowed to build on the old Ford Foundry site if new houses are so desperately needed? It was a big area and could have accommodated hundreds of homes, with good access to the existing infrastructure. More importantly a new estate there would hardly have been detrimental to that area.

Finally, most town planners seem to agree that 'urban sprawl' is a bad idea, so to take away green belt land between Leamington, Old Milverton and Kenilworth is inserting the thin end of the wedge for the eventual joining of all three areas into one 'super town' with the loss of individual town identities.

Yours faithfully,



WDC PLANNING
Ref
Officer
3 JUL 2012
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CC CR PD MA
PRE GEN DIS