

**WARWICK DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN 2012  
RESPONSE TO OPTIONS**

The Councillors and Officers of Warwick District Council have failed lamentably in their stewardship of the countryside within its area. It is almost unbelievable that you should contemplate breaking into the Green Belt for residential and other development without an overwhelming reason.

With land available to the south of Leamington Spa, outside the Green Belt, as identified in your 2009 Core Strategy, there is no very special circumstance for attempting to develop on the Green Belt, which is such a precious element, especially keeping Leamington and Kenilworth separate.

The proposed development areas identified within the Parishes of Old Milverton and Blackdown are located on particularly sensitive areas of high-quality farmland, providing recreational facilities for hundreds of local people by way of walking, running and cycling. It is obvious that, if the area adjacent to Old Milverton Lane were included in the proposed development it would shortly expand up to the railway line at least, since there is no natural barrier along its southern boundary. This would embrace Old Milverton Village, one of the last surviving separate villages close to Royal Leamington Spa, into the town.

Construction of the proposed homes and ancillary development to the north of Leamington would increase congestion in Leamington and Kenilworth. Making the A452 dual carriageway for much of its length would not help, since there would be bottlenecks each end, and the charming approaches to both towns would be lost amid unnecessary urbanisation.

I understand that you have added some 1,400 homes to the forecast to provide a buffer. If this buffer were removed it would obviate the need to include land at Old Milverton and Blackdown.

There is adequate land south of Leamington for development, where there is better superstructure and services, already proved as satisfactory.

Once the Green Belt has been lost, it cannot be brought back and the Warwick District Council of 2012 will be remembered only for its destruction of our valuable countryside and the development would be a permanent reminder of the thoughtlessness of its Members and Officers. Please reconsider the proposals before it is too late.

The Development Policy Manager,  
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