

22nd July 2012

Development Policy Manager
Development Services
Warwick District Council
Riverside House
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Leamington Spa
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Dear Warwick District Council

I am writing to express my sadness and dismay at your new local plan, which I believe you should reconsider. As a South Leamington resident I am shocked to learn that the Council intends to raise £28million to spend on infrastructure developments in the North, when this is desperately needed in the South to alleviate congestion, and the accompanying increase in housing to fund this would bring increased employment and improvements in the available housing stock. It seems very unfair for North Leamington to benefit from this investment at the expense of the South.

I approve of the pleasant garden town your council has suggested for the housing layout, and think that if correctly built in the South this could greatly help improve the North/South divide that currently exists in the town, (and has done for the past 50 years during which I have lived here). Distributing this construction around the town would only diminish the increased standing that the South would enjoy were it to be the main area of this improved housing stock, that would no doubt attract professional workers to live and work in the area, as well as providing cheaper housing than would be built elsewhere in the district, which would be important to first-time buyers, such as my grandchildren who are struggling to get on the housing ladder. Building in the North would not achieve this.

Many people expected a sensible planner to place the new housing in the South given the past developments there and open land to continue developing in, indeed building in the North would harm the South. Furthermore building in the North around Milverton, and Blackdown, in land which I remember became so called greenbelt, will have a detrimental effect on the entire town. Royal Leamington Spa's success as a Spa town stems from it's uniqueness of character, sense of identity and community feel. Neither Coventry nor Kenilworth have such beatifications and construction in these areas greatly risks these towns merging and such land should not only be reconsidered but removed from the plan. Furthermore in my younger days I enjoyed many a happy day in Warwickshire's fine countryside and some of the most pleasant and well used is that area leading from Northumberland Road to the Saxon Mill pub, it would be a great loss to the community to build over such a resource, as well as a destruction of some lovely wildlife land.

In talking to my friends and neighbours they inform me that the council must first build on all non-greenbelt land before considering greenbelt land – indeed this is why that land was designated such due to it's importance so many years ago, there is lots of land in South town, around Whitnash and Bishop's Tachbrook, the use of which would greatly benefit the area and bring in much needed investment and I really think that there should be more building there, and personally I really don't understand your plan.

Yours Faithfully



Lilian Wilson