

23rd July 2012

delivered 24th July 2012



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Dear Sir or Madam,

I object to the proposed development in Blackdown and Old Milverton contained in Warwick District Council's Preferred Options for the Local plan.

The following is a summary of the reasons for my objection:

### 1. Importance and purpose of the Green Belt

- The land between Old Milverton and Blackdown is of high Greenbelt value. It prevents neighbouring towns (in this case Leamington and Kenilworth) merging, preserves the setting and character of both these historic towns, and prevents urban sprawl of already built-up areas.
- Preservation of the Green Belt assists regeneration by encouraging recycling of urban land. Would it not be better to invest money in making town-centre-living a more feasible and attractive option?, e.g. ensuring developers of town-centre apartments include some larger options for families and consider underground parking. This would encourage people into the town-centre, rather than out of it, maintaining Leamington's character, helping town-centre businesses, and cutting crime.

### 2. Road congestion

- Building 3000 houses north of Leamington will increase congestion, and lead to unnecessary sprawl on roads.

### 3. Loss of Agricultural Land

- There will be a loss of a significant amount of high quality agricultural land.

### 4. Loss of an important Recreational Area

- The land at Old Milveton and Blackdown is enjoyed by many children, runners, walkers and cyclists. It provides a true countryside environment close to the town centre, very different to the character of a maintained park land. In the new proposals, this character would be lost.

### 5. Other non-Green Belt land is available for development

- In the "2009 Core Strategy," land south of Leanington (not in Green Belt) was identified, and is still available, for development. Consideration of the developers' financial gain is not a "very special circumstance" to permit unnecessary development of the Green Belt.

I am not opposed to development, but this should be on non Green Belt land and if possible geared towards getting more people to live in the town centre, rather than creating an urban sprawl of houses, roads and out-of-town retail. This will only detract from the character of Leanington and the attraction of it as a place to live and work. Please reconsider your Preferred Options. Yous sincerely,