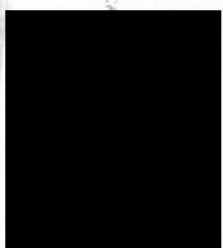


6268

WDC PLANNING
Ref
Officer
24 JUL 2012
SCANNED
CC CR PD MA
PRE GEN PAS



21st July 2012

Dear Sir/ Madam

We are writing to strongly protest about the Local Plan document "Helping shape the district". We have read the preferred options summary and can see that the council is in danger of making an irrevocable enormous mistake. Here are our objections.

We came to live here 18 months ago and found the town and its surrounding district to have a very pleasing balance of residential housing, employment opportunities and green belt land. My understanding of the government's National Planning Policy Framework is that green belt land must be preserved to prevent urban sprawl unless there are very special circumstances for its development. According to Warwick Council, your special circumstances are that there is nowhere else for homes to be built. However, this is not the case. In the 2009 Core Strategy, land in the south of Leamington that was not green belt was identified and is still available for development. Furthermore, there is much better infrastructure in the south of Leamington to support such developments as it has easier access to motorways and railway links.

The land at Old Milverton and Blackdown is enjoyed by many people in their leisure pastimes and should be preserved for future generations. Instead, what is proposed would encourage the merging of Kenilworth and Leamington and lead to urban sprawl which would be contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework. The proposed development and the so called "Relief Road" would have a detrimental effect on the area and completely ruin the nature of the village of Old Milverton.

Building around 3000 homes, many of which will have at least two cars each, will add enormously to the congestion that happens with commuters wanting to access the town centre or the motorway or the station. The expansion and development of the infrastructure in the north of Leamington would be extremely costly at around £28m. Upgrading the road network in the south of Leamington would be less costly and more easily achievable.

At the local meeting at Trinity School, there was unanimous objection to these proposals. Council officers failed to convince that they even had their numbers right in terms of how many homes needed to be built around Leamington given that their figures were based on a particular period which may not be accurately representative. Their response that the north of Leamington should be developed to "spread the pain" was lamentable and is no reason to stick to a decision which would alter the character of the town negatively forever and destroy valuable green belt land that has provided the residents of

this area with sustenance both literally and metaphorically for generations. We urge you to reconsider your proposals and retract the plans to build on any of the north Leamington green belt land.

In addition I would like to say that although registering on your site was accessible, I found the procedure you laid out for registering objection unnecessarily complex. I am also aware of a friend who tried to register their objections and your website did not appear to be working, so they gave up. Warwick Council has not made this an easy process to follow and I have real concerns whether you have been able to gather the true strength of feeling amongst Leamington Spa residents accurately because of it.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]