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68 Northumberland Road
Leamington Spa
Warwickshire
CV32 6HB

Development Policy Manager
Warwick District Council
Riverside House
Milverton Hill
Leamington Spa
CV32 5QH

30 July 2012

Dear Sir

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

This land has great recreational value to the local community. It is enjoyed by many runners, riders, walkers and cyclists.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that the Government attaches great importance to Greenbelts and that the fundamental aim of Greenbelt is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open.

The Greenbelt in Old Milverton and Blackdown fulfils the five purposes of Greenbelt set out in the NPPF and therefore should remain as open Greenbelt land for ever. It

- Prevents the unrestricted sprawl of Leamington to the north
- Prevents the merging of Leamington and Kenilworth
- Helps safeguard the countryside from encroachment
- Helps preserve the setting and special character of Leamington (a historic town)
- Helps urban regeneration by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

There are other sites which can be developed that are not in the Greenbelt. These sites, which are mainly to the south of Leamington, were included in Warwick District Council's previous plan (the 2009 Core Strategy). Employment opportunities and infrastructure already exists here and this land should be used in preference to the Greenbelt.

The NPPF states that Greenbelt boundaries should only be altered in exceptional circumstances. As there are alternative sites, there are no exceptional circumstances which outweigh the harm caused by altering the Greenbelt boundaries in Old Milverton and Blackdown and allowing development on this land.

Please reconsider your Preferred Options.

