

**Matter 7A Written Statement – H44 North of Milverton – Alysa Levene
(13813)**

Dear Mr Ward

I am writing to add my support to the campaign to preserve the Green Belt around Old Milverton. I am a local resident who loves the countryside on my doorstep, but there are many other reasons why I am opposed to the current development plans.

First, the fact that the plans are designed to ease a housing shortfall for Coventry. It simply makes no sense to address this need by building on the greenbelt north of Leamington. This area is not close enough to Coventry to provide convenient housing for people working there. It would contravene the 'green' plans of both Warwick and Coventry councils by putting more pressure on roads and motor transport, and further add to the congestion on link roads. The plan to use the existing bus services as a park and ride would additionally place undue pressure on a service which is already well used. There are alternative sites closer to Coventry which should be developed in preference to this site.

Second, the environmental consequences of taking land out of the green belt. It has been demonstrated that there are alternative non-green belt sites which should be developed for Leamington's future housing needs before touching this area, which is of considerable importance to walkers, runners and cyclists. Once this land is built on, the 'green lung' between Leamington and Kenilworth will be irreversibly reduced, changing the self-contained nature of the two distinctive and historic towns. Furthermore, once this land is built on, further developments will inevitably require the release of more greenbelt land. There are many residents from across Leamington who value the wildlife, space and quiet of this area of land. It encourages local people to be active and to take part in their community spaces. Old Milverton itself is a historic hamlet whose integrity would be destroyed by this plan.

Thirdly, building on the area through from Guy's Cliffe Avenue will turn this road into a thoroughfare, making it much more dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists. The importance of this fact is considerable given that there are two large schools (Brookhurst and Trinity) site on this road.

I am a runner, a cyclist, and the parent of a young child. For all these reasons I have deep personal concerns about the proposed development of this land. However, on a deeper level I do not believe that the plan merits the exceptional circumstances required by the National Planning Policy Framework to remove it from the green belt. It is highly unlikely to address Coventry's housing needs, and will remove a green space of great importance for Leamington. Development will bring huge pressure on roads and a greater environmental load.

Yours sincerely
Alysa Levene