

## **Matter 7A Written Statement – H44 North of Milverton – Andy Rogers (13821)**

**Dear Mr Kemp,**

**I am a proud resident of Old Milverton and have been a resident in Leamington for over 26 years. In that time I have greatly enjoyed the infrastructure that Leamington offers as a thriving town surrounded by some of the most beautiful Warwickshire countryside. I feel incredulous at the proposal to alter the local plan and to build over 1000 houses on the greenbelt land north of Leamington to satisfy Coventry's housing requirements. This feels like the destruction of valuable greenbelt and agricultural land that offers green space and business opportunities to many people.**

**I set out my detail opposition to the proposal below:-**

### **The site is unsuitable to meet the development needs of Coventry**

- It is irresponsible to build houses to meet Coventry's housing need on the greenbelt north of Leamington.
- The proposed location is 9 miles from Coventry city centre
- Public transport links to Coventry are poor and the proposal will encourage increased commuting by car and further congestion on already over crowded roads
- In practice it is extremely unlikely that people who work in Coventry will want to buy houses in North Leamington
- There are alternative sites, closer to Coventry, which should be used in preference to the land North of Leamington

### **The appropriate sequence for identifying sites for development should look at the greenbelt as a last resort**

- A substantial part of the site is to be "held in reserve" to meet Leamington's future housing need
- There are alternative sites, outside the greenbelt, that should be used in preference to the land North of Milverton
- Further development north of Leamington can only be achieved by using more of the greenbelt

### **The green belt at old Milverton is particularly valuable in comparison with other areas**

- The greenbelt North of Milverton has been very successful in preventing the spread of Leamington and has stopped Leamington merging with Kenilworth
- The greenbelt North of Milverton has preserved the setting of the historic, regency town of Royal Leamington Spa
- If the proposed development goes ahead the "Green Lung" between Leamington and Kenilworth will be reduced to less than 1.5 miles
- Further development North of Leamington will require the release of more greenbelt land

**The exceptional circumstances required by the National Planning Policy Framework to release land from the greenbelt have not been demonstrated**

- There are alternative, more sustainable, sites that should be used in preference
- Warwick District Council has spent a lot of time and resources trying to justify Exceptional Circumstances but has only been able to do so by claiming that the site is suitable for providing houses to meet Coventry's need.

**The proposed park and ride scheme is impractical and will not be used**

- The proposed site is too close to Leamington to reduce traffic on the A452
- There will not be dedicated buses, the proposal is for a "virtual service" using the existing bus services. As a consequence it will be necessary for commuters to time usage in accordance with the bus timetable, making it inflexible
- There is plenty of parking available in Leamington Spa. Indeed Warwick District Council is planning a new multi storey car park
- Commuters are unlikely to use the park and ride service to cross Leamington to a similar scheme on the south of Leamington as envisaged by Stage Coach
- Few park and ride schemes work in practice, Oxford being the only real example because there is so little parking in Oxford.
- The Stratford upon Avon park and ride scheme has been reduced
- There is no funding presently available for the park and ride scheme

**The area has great value for local residents.**

- Many walkers, horse riders, cyclists and runners use the area
- The area enables residents from the neighbouring towns to experience the open countryside
- Old Milverton is one of the last surviving hamlets on the outskirts of Leamington and its integrity will be destroyed by the proposals which will see it subsumed into Leamington.
- Valuable, productive farm land and important wild life habitat will be lost.

I do trust that you will take my views into consideration when you are making this decision.

Yours Sincerely

Andy Rogers