

Matter 7A Written Statement – H44 North of Milverton – Bob Drumgoole (6379)

I would like to reinforce my objections to the proposal to build near Old Milverton and Blackdown. My views are summarised below and I trust you will consider them during your decision making process.

Statement in relation to the proposed building on Green Belt Land around Old Milverton

I wish to state my objections to the development of land north of Leamington, specifically Old Milverton and Blackdown areas. This land is Green Belt and was designated as such for a purpose. The need to preserve Green Belt land continues and further to that WDC has identified this as “High Value Green Belt”. The National Planning Strategy states that Green Belt land should only be built on in exceptional circumstances and despite considerable effort WDC has failed to establish the existence of exceptional circumstances. There is land suitable for development in other areas and this should be fully utilised before any consideration is even given to building on Green Belt.

The proposal to build in the Old Milverton area is being made to provide housing for Coventry. This cannot be considered exceptional circumstances. The proposed site itself is 9 miles from the centre of Coventry. Public transport links to Coventry are poor and, more importantly, there are other non Green Belt areas closer to Coventry that are available and more suitable to meet Coventry’s housing needs.

Proposed development for Coventry on this site would lead to increased commuting, increased congestion, increased pollution. Losing the Green Belt would lead to further degradation of the environment. The land itself is an important amenity. It helps preserve the setting of two important historic towns, Kenilworth and Leamington, as well as the green lung that separates the two towns. Additionally it provides recreation for the residents of the town, provides residents with access to green space. Why did the Victorians build parks? This stretch of land is the entrance to the ancient Regency town of Leamington Spa and the land itself provides countryside walkways through the quintessential Old English village of Milverton. This is not just useable land but part of the beautiful English landscape that should be preserved for future generations.

Yours sincerely
Veronica Drumgoole
Bob Drumgoole