

Bill Gifford (1052)
Warwickshire County Councillor and Warwick District Councillor,
Leamington Milverton Division and Leamington Milverton Ward
22 Augusta Place, Royal Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV32 5EL
Tel: 01926 338776

Email: billgifford@warwickshire.gov.uk

Kevin Ward BA (Hons) MRTPI
c/o Ian Kemp
Programme Officer
16 Cross Furlong
Wychbold
Droitwich Spa
Worcestershire
WR9 7TA

26th August 2016

Dear Mr Ward,

Warwick District Local Plan Examination
Matter 4 The Spatial Strategy and Matter 7a: Policies DS11, DS15 and DS
NEW2 Allocation and Safeguarded Land at Old Milverton (H44 and S2)

As a District and County Councillor for Leamington Milverton, I have read the most recent submission produced for Old Milverton and Blackdown Joint Parish Council by Hunter Page.

I believe it to be an excellent document that makes it clear that there are not exceptional circumstances that justify removing the land to the north of Milverton from the Green Belt.

Hunter Page do acknowledge that due to the requirement for Warwick District and the neighbouring authorities to co-operate that some of Coventry's unmet Housing Need will have to be found in Warwick District.

The Hunter Page Submission also shows that as Coventry is surrounded by Green Belt some of the Green Belt land in Warwick District will be required, in order to provide land for nearly 6,000 dwellings that Coventry City Council cannot provide within its own borders. Hunter Page appear to accept that the unmet need and the ring of Green Belt round Coventry could be the exceptional circumstances to justify removing some land from the Green Belt within Warwick District.

However it is largely Coventry's unmet Housing Need that requires Green Belt land. If Warwick District Council is meeting Warwick District's unmet need then there is green field land outside the Green Belt to the south of the Warwick and Leamington conurbation that should be considered before the Green Belt.

I was impressed by the point that Hunter Page make that Warwick District's amended plan does not really address the difference between meeting Coventry's Housing Need and meeting Warwick District's own unmet housing need.

In the amended plan Warwick District Council has allocated Green Belt land to the north of Milverton to meet part Coventry's Housing Need, but it does not appear to first fully use the sites that border Coventry. Indeed as a District Councillor, I was surprised that the exceptional circumstances were produced after the land to the north of Milverton was selected by the District Council; this did appear to me and many residents as finding the evidence to justify the decision rather than basing the decision on the evidence.

As the County Councillor for Milverton I have to agree with the points made by Hunter Page about the Park and Ride Scheme. This suggestion and the railway station both appear again to be decisions that have been made without any compelling evidence. Indeed as Hunter Page demonstrate the actions of both Warwick District Council and Warwickshire County Council could well make a Park and Ride scheme totally unviable.

For all the above reasons I would suggest that Warwick District Council have not provided the exceptional circumstances to justify removing high scoring and high quality land from the Green Belt.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Gifford
County and District Councillor, Leamington Milverton
Tel: 01926 338776