

Matter 7A Written Statement – H44 North of Milverton – James Lander (13870)

Further to my initial statement regarding the development of the green belt land in the north of Leamington I wanted to support this statement and take the opportunity to write to you personally to express my concerns around the proposals.

I grew up in the north of Leamington and have spent the majority of the last 27 years living there. However, I am proud to say I am now a home owner in the South of Leamington. I live next to many people who have been attracted to our beautiful town however I fear we are on the brink of helping Leamington to lose its attractive appeal.

The greenbelt area in the north of Leamington has great value for both the immediate local residents and those of us who live elsewhere in Leamington.

Whilst myself and my neighbours, enjoy being in the residential hustle and bustle of south Leamington, we really value the open countryside areas that now only exist accessibly in the north of Leamington. These area enables residents from neighbouring towns to experience the open countryside and many people enjoy running, walking, horse riding etc through these areas. 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. Myself and my neighbours love the walk from Leamington, through the countryside and through Old Milverton. This will be completely spoilt by the proposed urbanisation and the setting to our beautiful regency town will be ruined.

In addition to the above emotive reasons there are also some fundamental flaws in the plans to build on the greenbelt in the north of Leamington. From what I understand, the proposal has been put together to alleviate the demand for housing in Coventry however, **the site is completely unsuitable to meet these development needs**. The proposed site is located 9 miles from Coventry city centre and it is irresponsible to build houses on the greenbelt in Leamington with the idea that this will meet Coventry's housing need. Public transport links to Coventry are poor and the proposal will encourage increased commuting by car and further congestion on already over crowded roads and in practice it is unlikely that people who work in Coventry will want to buy houses in North Leamington. I simply do not understand why alternative sites, closer to Coventry, would not be used in preference to the land North of Leamington. Surely the the sequence for identifying sites for development should look at the greenbelt as a last resort? What assurances do we have that this will not be the first in many developments on greenbelt land? **The exceptional circumstances required by the National Planning Policy Framework to release land from the greenbelt have not been demonstrated** as there are more sustainable, alternative sites that could and should be used in preference.

On a more personal level there seems to be inconsistency regarding the proposed park and ride scheme. As I understand it, it is generally accepted that park and ride schemes only work where there are restrictions to parking in the town itself (e.g.

Oxford where there is very limited parking). As such, I believe it was originally suggested that parking would be restricted in Leamington. However, there currently seems to be a proposal to expand an existing multistorey car park and build a new multistorey car park in Leamington. In addition, there is also a current proposal to increase on-street parking outside my house in Chapel street despite every single one of the residents writing to object to the proposal.

Please let me know if you would like to discuss any of the above further. Many thanks,

James