

## **Matter 7A Written Statement – H44 North of Milverton – Julie Bradley (974)**

To Mr. Kevin Ward

25th August 2016

Dear Mr. Ward

I am writing to re-inforce my previous representation objecting to the local plan for houses north of Milverton. I feel very strongly about this for the following reasons which I trust you will take into consideration:-

1. The greenbelt land proposed for rescheduling is of very high quality, as assessed by Warwick District Council itself. This land should not be used to provide houses for Coventry as it is 9 miles from Coventry, and there is other greenbelt land of lesser quality much nearer to Coventry. which should be considered first and would be far more convenient for the City.

2. The land is in highly productive agriculture and therefore should not be used for housing.

3. This greenbelt has been extremely effective in keeping separate the two towns of Kenilworth and Leamington Spa which are of very different character. If this land was released from greenbelt status there would be pressure to build on more land between the two towns which would then merge, -- with consequent loss of character and attractiveness to the many thousands of tourists who visit these towns for their history and rural setting.

4. This area is a hot spot for residents of Warwick, Leamington and Kenilworth who use it extensively for outdoor pursuits, including walking, riding, jogging, birdwatching and simply enjoying the rural countryside with its unspoilt village of Old Milverton. There is a network of footpaths giving several circular routes, and this contributes to a healthy lifestyle for local people, in line with government and medical recommendations . This would be lost if greenbelt status was removed. The area is also close enough to local schools for them to use it for field work in geography and nature studies, and they do so, following education recommendations for these subjects.

5. This land is adjacent to the Avon Valley, which has been designated an important Local Wild life Site by WDC's Ecology team. The greenbelt land provides the larger expanse of open country required to maintain biodiversity, as this cannot be achieved by confining wildlife to narrow corridors. (this is in line with the policies of the Wildlife Trusts to create "Living Landscapes" in addition to Nature reserves.) For example, birds such as buzzard, tawny owl and kestrel would not nest in the Avon valley, as they do, if this large area of greenbelt land adjacent was not available to them for hunting, and they would be lost from the area. (Please see the more extensive report I have submitted about this aspect)

6. If houses were built on the greenbelt land, it would create enormous problems for transport. The roads here are already at the limit of their capacity; duelling the main

road has already been rejected and would not solve the problem. A link road across to the A46 from Milverton would put more pressure on the Avon Valley, and a railway station is impractical as the line is single track and in a deep cutting. The siting of a Park and Ride scheme North of Milverton would be too close to the two towns for it to be an attractive alternative, especially as no dedicated buses are proposed. This would not help people working in Coventry either.

I trust my reasons for opposing the removal of greenbelt status from this area will convince you ; once this land has been built on, the whole area would change and there is no going back.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Bradley