

Matter 7A Written Statement – H44 North of Milverton – Paul & Carmen Formby (14232 / 14233)

Ian Kemp

Warwick District Local Plan Programme Officer

16 Cross Furlong

Wychbold, Droitwich Spa

Worcestershire WR9 7TA

28 August 2016

Dear Mr Kemp

We are writing to you to re-iterate the objections that we have to the Warwick District Local Plan as it affects the Old Milverton and Blackdown area.

Our understanding is that the proposals will fundamentally change the nature of the area and the environment replacing an essential area of Green Belt open land with an area of high density urban development.

The principal motivation for this is the creation of additional dormitory housing for Coventry and it remains our opinion that there are many other areas which are nearer to Coventry which would provide a better location for development without such a huge adverse impact.

Our concerns are that;

- (1) The roads and transport infrastructure in the area are already congested and any increase in traffic would simply add to the existing problems. The plan appears to involve even more traffic being focused on the Kenilworth Road which is already so busy that it takes us up to five minutes simply to turn out of our drive onto the Kenilworth Road! To add any further traffic would be madness as the traffic will simply queue back along the Kenilworth Road which is already frequently blocked with traffic all the way from Cloisters Croft past Northumberland Road and nearly back as far as the roundabout. A far better access point could be achieved by using the A46 to move the traffic volume to the south of Leamington Spa where most of the traffic would be better directed either for access to the industrial and employment areas located there or to access the centre of the town or the retail park which is located there.
- (2) The green belt North of Milverton represents a very important area which not only prevents Leamington Spa from merging with Kenilworth but represents an essential recreational area for local residents and visitors. We use the footpaths between Northumberland Road and Old Milverton and between Old Milverton and Guy's Cliffe frequently and we meet many walkers, horse riders, cyclists and runners who also regularly use and enjoy them. The development plans would see this important recreational and wildlife habitat destroyed and

the character of the area and Old Milverton in particular destroyed. Surely there are other sites that could be used that are in less sensitive areas and which would not totally destroy the character of the area? We certainly believe that this is the case.

- (3) No exceptional circumstances as required by the National Planning Policy framework to justify the release of this land from the greenbelt have been demonstrated.
- (4) The locations proposed for 'park and ride' are unsuited because they are too close to Leamington Spa and will increase rather than reduce traffic on the A452 Kenilworth Road. Such schemes have been largely unsuccessful and usage has been much lower than was initially projected in many other areas (for example Stratford upon Avon where a park and ride scheme has actually been reduced). We suggest that it would be much better to change the location of the park and ride to nearer the A46 or limit it to the area adjacent to the first roundabout off the A46 rather than the second thereby relieving congestion and traffic queues more effectively and more economically (as the cost of the development of the road system up to the second roundabout could be avoided or greatly reduced).

For many years we lived in Surrey and travelled round the M25 to Board Meetings of companies located in the Birmingham area. During those years vast sums of money were spent on extending the M25 and putting in a fourth lane but it remained a joke that it was the biggest car park in Britain with journey times deteriorating rather than improving.

We urge the Inspector to reject the proposals as drafted, to restrict any development permitted so that the character and amenities of the area are not destroyed and to restrict any park and ride facilities to the area between the A46 and the first roundabout to the south of the A46 on the A452 adjacent to the Ramada Hotel rather than the second roundabout which is far too close to Leamington Spa to achieve the desired reduction in traffic (which we assume is the aim and justification for any provision of park and ride) and would be much more difficult to access.

Yours sincerely

Paul Formby **Carmen Formby**