

Matter 7A Written Statement – H44 North of Milverton – Tim Walter (554)

As we near the start of the Hearing Sessions, I would like to reiterate the grounds for my objections to WDC's Local Plan (69744 & 5) submitted some time ago.

I am now even more convinced that it is irresponsible to build houses to meet Coventry's housing need on the Green Belt north of Leamington some 9 miles from Coventry city centre when acceptable public transport links to Coventry are so inadequate. The proposal will encourage increased commuting by car and result in further congestion on already over crowded roads though in practice, it is unlikely that people who work in Coventry will want to buy houses in North Leamington. Furthermore, there are alternative sites, closer to Coventry, which should be used in preference to the land North of Leamington.

Destroying Green Belt in pursuit of this proposal cannot be deemed to meet the requirement for "Exceptional Circumstances" when there are, on objective bases, more suitable alternative sites, outside the Green Belt or in other less highly rated Green Belt sites, that should be used in preference to the land North of Milverton, many of which are nearer to or in Coventry. The North Leamington Green Belt holds great value for local residents who walk, ride, cycle and run on this area as well as it being an irreplaceable wild life habitat and useful farmland.

My view of the proposal for a park and ride scheme remains that it is both impractical and unattractive to those drawn to visit or to commute into Leamington Spa. It would be a costly and unnecessary development of green open space with no tangible advantage.

I urge the Inspector to reject the proposals to take this land out of the Green Belt and to preserve the status of Old Milverton and Blackdown.

Regards
Tim Walter