

Subject: Shrewley Parish Council Objection to SWLP Preferred Options - Sites B1 and SG07

To the SWLP Consultation Team,

Shrewley Parish Council is writing to strongly object to the inclusion of sites B1 and SG07 in the SWLP Preferred Options.

'Keep Hatton Station Rural' have provided detailed information about the problems with these sites which we fully support. However, our key reason for objecting is that these sites directly contradict the five vision statements outlined in the SWLP.

Specifically, we believe these sites:

- **Worsen climate change:** They do not help to reduce the harmful effects of climate change.
- **Damage local beauty and heritage:** They do not respect the existing beauty and historical importance of our area. This area of the Forest of Arden has a number of small settlements, each with its own distinctive character. These are separated by agricultural fields and hedgerows and pockets of woodland. The proposed development would destroy this landscape character and bring a large new town close to the boundaries of a number of these settlements. Once lost, it can never be recovered.
- **Harm healthy lifestyles:** They do not support safe and healthy lifestyles for everyone. The peaceful and healthy lives of people living near these sites will be negatively affected.
- **Increase traffic and reduce active travel:** They are poorly connected, difficult to access, and make it hard for people to walk or cycle. It is very difficult to create safe walking and cycling routes from these sites to Warwick.
- **Harm nature and wildlife:** They damage the Green Belt and harm biodiversity. From an environmental perspective, the development of 8,000 new homes on green belt land would have disastrous consequences. Green belts are meant to protect open spaces, preserve wildlife habitats, and maintain natural landscapes. The proposed development would result in the loss of vital green space, which is home to various species of wildlife and supports biodiversity. Furthermore, much of the land earmarked for development is productive farmland that plays a crucial role in food production. The destruction of this land would not only reduce local food security but also contribute to a wider problem of urban sprawl, diminishing the natural environment that future generations depend on. The Canal Conservation Area and its immediate area should be protected from development as it is an important wildlife corridor. The towpath is currently unmade, unlit and narrow in places. Improving it to provide a practical walking / cycling route through the site would adversely affect wildlife

Our concerns are based on the following:

- **Green Belt location:** These sites are located in the Green Belt, and there are no special reasons to build there. There are other suitable sites outside the Green Belt that should be considered and we suggest that X2 is a better option than B1.
- **Hatton Station's limitations:** The train service is infrequent (only once every two hours) and the railway line cannot handle more trains. The station and its facilities (like parking) cannot be expanded and the roads leading to the station are too small for more traffic. The proposal to develop Hatton Station as a transport hub is illogical as Warwick Parkway Station is under 2 miles away and was added to the network fairly recently to meet this need. This station is better served by the local road network, is closer to other centres of population and, since Covid, has a large underused car park. People will likely use Warwick Parkway instead and it is often impractical to reach the main employment sites within the County by train. SG07 will also not generate sufficient new jobs and there will be a significant need for cars to be used for external commuting which means that B1 is not a sustainable location.

- **Traffic problems:** The A4177, Stanks Island, and A425 will be overwhelmed by extra traffic. One of the most pressing issues is the inadequacy of the road network to accommodate the increased volume of traffic. The surrounding roads are already congested during peak hours, and the addition of thousands of new residents would exacerbate these problems.

The local infrastructure is simply not equipped to handle the influx of road users that this development would create. Without a comprehensive plan for upgrading roads, junctions, and traffic flow, the result will be gridlock, prolonged commute times, and significant impacts on residents, quality of life.

- **Strain on local services:** Schools, hospitals, and other services in Warwick will struggle to cope with more people.

We urge the SWLP to remove sites B1 and SG07 from the Preferred Options.