

3 March 2025

Response to the Local Plan

The original Local Plan used ONS population figures which have now been exposed by the Coventry and Warwickshire HEDNA as 'erroneous'. For many years residents and groups had repeatedly asked Coventry City Council to review these 'significantly over-estimated' figures and they were not only ignored but the review of the plan, despite having access to Census figures to prove the errors, was delayed another year, allowing for even more developments to take place, further decimating the green belt in north west Coventry. These developments continue to describe applications as 'much-needed housing'.

Allesley parish in Coventry North West is one of the only remaining areas of green belt in Coventry. It is also one of the few areas in the city which is a rural environment, of quality farmed fields with small pockets of woodland, heritage trees and hedgerows – surprisingly natural and unchanged for 500 years, despite being book-ended by the Keresley and Eastern Green's SUEs. This area of suburban fringe is fighting to retain this very special environment within an urbanised city but the relentless pressure of surrounding development is as harmful as destroying the fields and farms.

The Keresley and Eastern Green SUEs and the unsustainable infrastructure, described by the Planning Lead as 'a mess' are having a detrimental impact on much of Coventry North West. The relief road which begins this year and will promise traffic misery for many, will not be resolved upon its completion as more and more developments in the Keresley and Eastern Green areas are completed and populated. Cycle routes are ideal for leisure but no replacement for cheap/free, efficient public transport, which is still severely lacking in the area. New residents will continue to drive cars, despite the traffic jams. The lack of any masterplanning suggests more of the same with the new plan.

Coventry City Council continues to insist they welcome engagement with the review of the plan, but this requires a concerted effort to listen to residents and heed genuine, concerned responses to issues which have a detrimental impact on those who live in this area of the city, rather than imposing a new plan without consideration of those who will be most affected by it.

Mrs Amanda Davies

Resident