

News Release



PR 1349

12 December 2012

Release Sent

David Brown Letter on Local Plan to Nantwich

Cabinet Office
Westfields
Middlewich Road
SANDBACH
Cheshire
CW11 1HZ
Tel: 01270 686014
david.browncouncillor@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Date: 11/12/2012

OUR REF:

YOUR REF:

Dear Editor,

RE: Nantwich

Cheshire East has been in constant dialogue with its residents over the past two years and it's clear that across the Borough people are against development for development's sake.

Accordingly, what we have endeavoured to do is prepare a Development Strategy which offers a holistic view for the planning of the area whilst taking on board many residents thoughts and comments.

This is a consultation document which delivers our much vaunted five year supply and at last offers a shield against unwanted, unplanned and unsustainable development.

For Nantwich we are proposing a new green belt for the town - to maintain its distinct and historic identity. For the past century and a half, Nantwich has lived alongside its larger neighbour Crewe. That relationship is vital for both towns - but we believe Crewe and Nantwich should develop in parallel as separate but complimentary communities. We will therefore be making the strongest possible case to Government for a new green gap around the town.

Within Nantwich itself we are adopting a clear 'town centre first' approach to boost trade; allied to this we are proposing two major development sites which are both within walking distance of town centre facilities. The Site at Snow Hill is largely brownfield and has previously been identified for development - whilst a new mixed use development of up to 1,000 homes, employment and community facilities is proposed north west of the town centre at Kingsley Fields. This development will assist with infrastructure improvements as well as securing new open space and recreational land adjacent to the River Weaver. In the south of the town development will be confined to the site of the former Stapeley Water Gardens.

Finally a key purpose of the Development Strategy is to identify a five year supply of housing land so we can meet our housing obligations - and we will be doing the necessary technical work over the next few weeks to provide a robust case to underpin future decision making.

This strategy will be published for consultation early in the New Year. We feel we have listened already to many people's views - but we still want to learn and understand more and obtain different perspectives on these issues. Where there are difficult decisions to be made, I will be meeting residents and others personally to fully understand the concerns. Overall I believe this to be a plan which keeps the best of what we all cherish about our towns and villages whilst also providing for a successful and prosperous future for us all.

I therefore urge you to let us know your views when the consultation starts in mid January.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor David Brown
Deputy Leader of the Council
Portfolio Holder for Strategic Communities

