

# News Release



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Release Sent

## David Brown Letter on Local Plan to Knutsford

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OUR REF:

YOUR REF:

Dear Editor,

RE: Knutsford

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.

Knutsford is acknowledged to be a fine historic town of exceptional character. The area is tightly bordered by green belt, which we know is highly valued by many. Consequently our overriding priority will be to preserve and maintain Knutsford as a distinctive small town, with easy access to open countryside.

At the same time we think that a small amount of new development, carefully designed and phased over the coming decades will help Knutsford maintain that delicate balance

as a thriving community. Overall therefore around 400 homes are planned up to 2030 - some 20 new homes each year. Given that brownfield opportunities are limited, some adjustment of the green belt is unavoidable.

We therefore propose that land be allocated on the North Western side of Knutsford for a mix of business, housing and community uses. Particular attention will be paid to the housing mix - to ensure it meets local needs (to include bungalows, for example) and to the design of all buildings, so they respect the character of the town.

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