

CLERK'S CORNER NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP)

By the time you read this, you will have received notification from SDC of the NDP REFERENDUM which is taking place on Thursday 29th June 2017.

The Chairman of the Steering Group has written and article on why you should vote and why you should "Vote YES" but it would be remiss of me not to underline the importance of this document. The Referendum version of the NDP, which is the document you will be voting on, is the result of 3 years work by the NDP Steering Group, made up by local residents, local business and members of the Parish Council ably assisted and steered by Neal Pearce, of APS Consulting, the Parish Council's planning consultant. It contains policies on

- Housing
- Economy
- Environment
- Amenities

all based on the replies you gave to the various consultations but ensuring they comply with the basic requirements.

The document was unanimously approved by Stratford-on-Avon DC and its leader, Cllr. Chris Saint, was very complimentary of it, especially the attention of maintaining and creating Local Green Spaces.

If approved by you, the local community, the NDP will become a planning statutory document which the Local Planning Authority, SDC, will have to use and apply when considering planning applications. This has recently led to a successful conclusion. The Parish Council objected to the felling of 18 trees and 2 mature hedgerows in the conservation area of Barton, stating that it was contrary to Policy ENV2 – Green Infrastructure. By citing this policy, the Forestry and Landscape (planning) Officer at SDC was able to support Council's objection and limit the felling to 1 tree, whilst the remainder were cutback/crown reduced and the mature hedgerows saved.

Your replies to the survey are also being used by the Parish Council's Strategic Working Groups when drawing up policies for the improvement of the parish.

THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE LOCALISM REAL – DON'T FORGET TO VOTE "YES" FOR A BETTER FUTURE ON THURSDAY 29TH JUNE 2017

BIG MEADOW

When I posted the opening of the Big Meadow on Facebook in April and reminded local residents that they are entitled to a Free Cr Pass, there were a number of "complaints" from residents from neighbouring villages: the issue was why they had to pay £2,50 each time they wanted to come? The answer is that the 26 acre Big Meadow does not belong to the Parish Council, it is leased from the Charity of Alice Duchess Dudley at an annual cost of

£11,800. The Parish Council also has to maintain it, ensure the play equipment is safe etc. All this costs money which is paid for via the local precept which is why local residents are entitled to a Free Car Park. However, the Parish Council did consider the issue at its May meeting and agreed to a "loyalty type scheme" trial: a visitor pays £10 for a ticket which allows the bearer to enter 5 times – the last visit being free. The scheme will be monitored to measure its success: if it means more visitors to the Big Meadow, it will become an annual feature.

FLOOD ACTION GROUP

It is coming up to 10 years since the disastrous 2007 floods that created such devastation to a large number of residents.

Since then, Broom has had a Flood Alleviation Scheme put in place west of Millers Bank, which suffered the most damage, as has Marlcliff – the latter supplemented by a couple of pumps, very ably manned by local residents, who ensure they practice on a regular basis.

However, Bidford High Street, The Pleck and other areas, have no added protection and it is the purpose of the Flood Action Group that these residents are better prepared and more resilient should another such event occur and, with climate change, it is likely it will.

The Flood Action Group was successful in its request to the Parish Council to have extra bins installed on the High Street for sand and sand bags and, vulnerable residents can call on either the lengthman or snow warden for assistance in getting sand bags filled and in place. However, in order to be able to know where the vulnerable residents are, I would need a list of them. So, if you are vulnerable and have difficulty getting sandbags in place and moving furniture, please let me have your name, address and telephone number so that, in the event of a future flood, I am able to get help to you in time. **PLEASE NOTE I AM THE REGISTERED DATE PROTECTION OFFICER OF THE COUNCIL, SO YOUR DETAILS WILL NOT BE MADE AVAILABLE TO OTHERS OR PUBLICISED.**

I also have a number of The Resilience Team's booklet "PREPARE 4 ACTION" which will help you tailor your actions should a flood become imminent. Please contact me if you would like a copy.

The Action Group would also appreciate any news of flood issues that may arise: so again, please contact me and let me know, so we can map any changes and bring these forward to our Multi Agency Meetings that take place quarterly.

My contact details are: **Elisabeth Uggerløse, Clerk, Parish Council Office, Bramley Way, B50 4QG. Tel. 778653 or Mob. 07718 628925. Email: info@idfordonavon-pc.gov.uk**

HELP US HELP YOU!

JUNE 29TH YOUR TIME TO VOTE

The Bidford Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

- Has taken over two years of hard work to prepare, consult on, finalise.
- Has the unanimous support of the Stratford District Council.
- Represents the views and wishes of your local community

WHY VOTE "YES" AT THIS REFERENDUM?

Neighbourhood Planning is an important part of passing greater influence on decision making from national and local government to communities.

Your NDP has been prepared by a Steering Group made up of local residents, representatives of local business and members of the Parish Council

It sets out our vision for the Neighbourhood Area and contains policies that:

- enable appropriate, sustainable development
- support job creation
- safeguard existing amenities and create more.
- help to protect our environment

PLEASE VOTE "YES" FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Cllr **JOE HARVEY**
Chairman of the NDP Steering Group