



Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council

IN THE COUNTY OF WARWICKSHIRE

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Paul Harris
Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Elizabeth House
Church Street
Stratford-upon-Avon
CV37 6HX

12th August 2008

Dear Paul

Re : Local Development Framework Core Strategy 2011-2026

I refer to your recent meeting with the Parish Council to discuss the above issue, following which the Parish council agreed to consult with the local residents.

A "drop in" meeting was arranged to allow residents to study the proposals and discuss them with members of the Parish Council. They were then invited to make their comments in writing.

The Parish Council was very pleased with the attendance to the meeting and the number of comments made, which were taken into consideration at Monday's Planning Committee meeting, when the Parish council discussed the issue.

The Parish Office is situated in Bramley Way, Bidford-on-Avon, B50 4QG and is open to members of the public Monday to Friday 10.00 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

If you are unable to attend during these times, please call for an appointment.

Following these discussions, I have been instructed to advise you that the Parish Council objects to the three proposed sites, namely BID 1, BID 2 (residential) and BID 3 industrial) due to the following reasons:

- Unsustainable infrastructure
 - The current road system in the village is already under stress, particularly with large number of HGV's using the B439 by passing the A46, and driving over Bidford Bridge despite its 10T weight limit.
 - The number of cars on the High Street is making driving difficult and reducing the number of residents using the local shops
 - The drains/sewage system is under considerable strain. Not taking into account the development of approx. 150 houses on the Friday Furlong site, there is already a problem with the water pressure on houses on Waterloo Road
 - There are a number of flooding issues that must be investigated: the built up area of the village is increasing, reducing the capacity of the environment to absorb water. Of particular importance is the brook that runs through Bidford, which is under considerable stress which will only increase with further building. As an example, it should be noted that plans for the Friday Furlong development include "balance ponds" to take this into account

- Education
 - Unsustainable secondary education as there is no High School in the village. Youngsters are bussed to
 - Alcester
 - Stratford-upon-Avon
 - Henley in Arden
 - Studley
 - And other schools outside the county
 - The proposed increase in the age of school leavers will result in a noticeable increase of pressure on the current schools.
 - The Primary School is well sourced. Should more developments occur, however, it may need to expand and the area covered by BID 2 would be the ideal site as an extension to the existing playing field

- Parish Plan – B50 adopted by SDC in 2004 states:
 - The Planning Authority (SDC) should adopt a policy that safeguards the village qualities of the parish and rejects the urban style developments characteristic of recent years

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- Policies already set out in the Local Plan review should be implemented in order to limit the amount of development possible and to eliminate shortages in public open space, leisure provision and services to meet the needs of young people – namely:
 - Friday Furlong
 - The old school site (Old School Mead)
 - Marleigh House, although not supported by the Parish Plan, was another development that has been carried out (Wharrad Close)
- The requirement is for smaller developments of 4/6 houses around the village. This is also supported by the 2005 House Needs Survey

It is also important to note that a number of smaller developments have been carried out in the last few years:

- Roman Close – 6 dwellings
- Crompton Avenue – 4 dwellings (flats)
- Westholme Road – 2 dwellings
- Waterloo Road – 4 dwellings
- High Street – 6 dwellings

Regarding the industrial development BID 3, some objections have been received regarding the impact of HGV traffic on the already over used Waterloo Road, which the Parish Council endorses. The Council would suggest a study be carried out to see the feasibility of a feeder road and link off Tower Hill to ease the situation.

Finally, the Parish Council believes very strongly that the Friday Furlong development must be carried out, and its impact assessed, before any further large scale developments are considered.

In view of all the above, the Parish Council restates its strong objection to the proposals as set out in the Local Plan Framework, Core Strategy and trust its views will be taken in account during this consultation.

Yours sincerely,



Elisabeth Uggerløse
Clerk to the Parish Council