



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 January 2009

Dear Paul

Re : Local Development Framework Core Strategy 2011-2026

Further to the Parish Council's reply to the above, dated 12th August 2008, and to the recent "drop in session" at Elizabeth House which was attended by two nominated Councillors and I, I have been instructed to reiterate its concerns regarding the proposed sites, namely:

- 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.
During the drop in session at Elizabeth, comments were made regarding the charming and vibrant High Street. We were quite astounded at this, as one of the current issues being addressed by the Parish Council is the death of the High Street. In the last 10/12 years, more and more shops have closed and the

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“foot fall” of the High Street is decreasing rapidly.

Councillors believe a traffic study should be carried out to see if some improvements to the use of the High Street can be carried out, that will help promote the use of the High Street

- Parking facilities
 - One way system
 - Street cleaning
- 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.
This concern was again highlighted recently, when half a days rain resulted in some areas being flooded – and the brook was close to flooding again. It has been noted that new build results in more rubbish entering the brook making it more susceptible to rising and overflowing when there is continuous rain for short/medium periods.
 - 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
 - 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:

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- 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.

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. Since writing in August, the Parish Council understands the Friday Furlong development is now on hold. However, it remains part of the current Local Plan and an area that requires development and it must, therefore, be a priority.

Bidford Parish Council is aware of the continued requirement to ensure there is sufficient adequate housing in the area, and is quite prepared to work with the Planning Authorities. However, members do feel the above issues objecting to the proposals as set out in the Local Plan Framework, Core Strategy are valid, especially the need to wait until the impact of the Friday Furlong Development takes place, and would urge you to delay any further developments in the village for the time being.

Yours sincerely,



Elisabeth Uggerløse
Clerk to the Parish Council