



Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council

IN THE COUNTY OF WARWICKSHIRE

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Colin Staves
Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Elizabeth House
Church Street
Stratford-upon-Avon
CV37 6HX

17th August 2009

Dear Paul

Re : Stratford-on-Avon District Local Development Framework – Core Strategy

Your letter of 22nd July in respect of the above, was discussed by the Parish Council at its Planning Committee Meeting of 10th August.

As already expressed in letters sent to Paul Harris on 12th August 2008, 12th January and 12th May 2009, the Parish Council strongly objects to the proposed sites which it considers unacceptable on sustainability grounds.

The Parish Council would also like to draw your attention to the comments made by the local community with regards to future housing in Bidford, and which are contained in the adopted Parish Plan, B50. The issues raised therein were:

- To protect the village character in all parts of the parish
- The need for affordable housing throughout the parish
- Inadequate special housing provision for disabled and other handicapped residents
- Encouraging small-scale developments including infill
- Development on Friday Furlong

The Parish Office is situated in Bramley Way, Bidford-on-Avon, B50 4QG and is open to members of the public 10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays and from 1.30 – 4.30 pm on Thursdays

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

And the solutions were:

- No more large-scale developments
- New housing estates **ONLY** to be considered on the former school site (already carried out) and Friday Furlong (still awaiting completion). Otherwise find sites where **SINGLE** houses or **SMALL GROUPS** of houses can be built.
- Concentrate on houses and flats to rent; sheltered and starter homes and 3-bedroom houses to buy or for shared ownership
- Use traditional materials and styles to give new houses a village feel

It is clear from the above, and from a drop in consultation session held with local residents, that the local community does not want any further large developments within the parish, which it considers inappropriate and unsustainable.

The Parish Council also feels very strongly that until the site on Friday Furlong is fully developed and its impact on the village fully assessed, no further large-scale developments should be considered.

Further important issues the Parish Council believes should be taken into serious consideration include:

- One of the proposed development sites is close to the brook and will exacerbate flooding problems along Steppes Piece, Victoria Road and Burnell Close. The current small development of Jacksons Meadow had a great effect on the flood of July 2007.
Members noted that the Flood Risk in the report is limited to precisely 2 lines!
- Too many houses for the facilities the village offers and no appropriate site within the village to increase the facilities
- Public Transport – it already has difficulties due to the roads being too small for the volume of transport required. A further large development, over and above Friday Furlong, would make this unfeasible.
Another transport issue would involve the work place of the intended residents. Current statistics show that 76% of residents already travel to work outside the area; any increase in the population would result in increased pressure on transport, the village's carbon footprint, with very little economic return to the village.
- The drain system in the village is already under stress, again without Friday Furlong being developed, which is included in the current Local Plan and which the Parish Council and the community would like to see developed .
- Water pressure is already low in many areas, especially Waterloo Road
- Education – Bidford Primary School is already under pressure to provide places for children under 5 (pre-school).
All children over the age of 11 will have to be bussed out and in of the village – more transport problems – and again, schools in Alcester and Stratford are oversubscribed.

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The Parish Council trusts District Council will give the above comments, as well as those made in its presentations on 12th August 2008 and 12th January and 12th May 2009, due and careful consideration as they represent not only the views of the Members of the Parish Council, but those of the majority of residents of the village whose quality of life will be most at risk.

Yours sincerely



Elisabeth Uggerløse
Clerk to the Parish Council



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