



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

19th April 2010

Dear Mr. Harris,

**Re : Reply to the consultation of Local Development Framework: Core Strategy
2011-2026**

As you are aware, the Parish Council has discussed the contents of the above consultation, which are relevant to Bidford-on-Avon on a number of occasions.

The current document has three proposed areas for private dwellings, including Friday Furlong, totalling some 250 houses; and one for business/commercial use.

As previously advised, with the exception of Friday Furlong, which is already included in the current Local Plan and in the adopted Parish Plan B50, the Parish Council is opposed to the other two proposed sites as it does not believe it is sustainable.

The Parish Office is situated in Bramley Way, Bidford-on-Avon, B50 4QG
and is open to members of the public 10.00 am – 1.00 pm 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.

As stated in the consultation document (Page 72) since the building of the relief road, B439, which literally cut the village in half, the number of dwellings in Bidford has grown by a staggering 84% and its population by 50%. At the same time, the High School was closed. In fact the number of dwellings and population has grown whilst the facilities have decreased

The Parish Council cannot agree with the statement made under point 7.3.4 that *“there is a reasonable range of shops and services, including a primary school and medical centre, which meet the needs of local residents and surrounding villages”*. The number of shops has decreased at an alarming rate, with only a handful of shops remaining on the High Street; the Primary School is at full capacity levels and the Medical Centre can no longer cope with the number of patients.

Point 7.3.5 states that *“a frequent bus service runs through Bidford on Mondays to Saturdays lining with Evesham and Stratford-upon-Avon”* and there is a bus to Redditch, though infrequent and badly advertised. However, patients requiring to go to hospital, mainly to Warwick and Coventry, or family and friends wishing to visit them, are unable to use public transport; voluntary drivers have to be found to take them; likewise for any patients requiring outpatient treatment.

Another issue of material consideration is the unsustainable infrastructure of the village:

- The road system is already under stress:
 - Waterloo Road has too much traffic on it already, and this will increase once Friday Furlong is developed and the medical centre relocated there
 - the number of cars on the High Street is making driving difficult, and reducing the number of resident using the few local shops that are left.
 - Parking on the High Street is also a problem, causing congestion at the traffic lights
 - The number of HGVs driving over Bidford Bridge, despite the weight limit, has been a problem form a number of years
 - In the mornings, when people are leaving for work and the school buses are collecting pupils to bus them to the different schools, there is traffic congestion especially along Victoria Road and Waterloo Road
- The drain/sewage system is already under great strain, particularly around Waterloo Road; and this is before Friday Furlong is developed. Houses in this area suffer from fluctuating water pressure.
- Flooding is a great concern to the Parish Council and the local community. The increased building will result on more water being discharged into the brook: this was one of the main changes noted in the 2007 flood – areas that had not flooded before, did so this time as the water in the brook rose very fast and broke its banks.
Furthermore, the increase in the built up area of the village will only exacerbate the problem, which is not helped by a poor and under-strain water system (as mentioned above).

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And of course, apart from the brook, there are the Rivers Arrow and Avon, both of which affect the area.

- Very little amenities available for teenagers, made worse by the lack of a High School, which results in teenagers being bussed to and from Alcester, Stratford and even Chipping Campden!

The Parish Plan B50, which was adopted by SDC as a supplementary planning policy in 2004, quite clearly states that

- *“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*
- The requirement is for smaller developments of 4/6 houses around the village, which was also supported by the House Needs Survey carried out in 2005.

Another problem the Parish Council has encountered is that the type of new development favoured has resulted in a continual increase in the number of residents commuting to work; when carrying out a business survey, it was found that the business on the industrial estate were concerned about the lack on local people to employ!! The type of housing required is affordable, not the 4/5 bedroom developments that are being provided.

The Parish Council accepts that there are pressures on Stratford District Council to provide more housing. However, it feels, and in this it is supported by the local community, that it is developed as far as the current infrastructure allows. Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Developments states *“At the heart of sustainable development is the simple idea of ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and for future generations. A widely used definition was drawn up by the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987: “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”* The Parish Council would urge you to take this into consideration when planning the future of Bidford-on-Avon.

Finally, the Parish Council would also refer to its replies dated: 12th August, 2008; 12th January 2009; 12th May 2009 and 17th August 2009.

Yours sincerely,



Elisabeth Uggerløse
Clerk to the Parish Council



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