

Notes of Alcester/Bidford Community Forum – 8th March 2011 @ the Crawford Memorial Hall, Salford Road, Bidford-on-Avon

A total of 30 people attended the Forum

Welcome and Introductions

The Chairman, Cllr. James welcomed all to **YOUR** Community Forum.

Police Update and Setting Priorities for next 3 Months

Before making the presentation, Sgt. Moss advised this would be his last Community forum as he was being transferred to Leamington Spa. PC Pete Essex would be taking over from May.

Sgt..Moss reported back on the 3 priorities as chosen at the previous meeting, namely:

The 3 priorities set at this forum were:

- Anti Social Behaviour in Alcester
- Anti Social Behaviour in Bidford-on-Avon
- Acquisitive Crime (burglary, car thefts, etc.)

The most successful had been the acquisitive crime, which had reduced considerably.

Theft of heating oil was still a problem, especially with the high prices and residents using it were advised to take extra care.

Also, theft of catalytic converters was on the rise, especially from 4 x 4, due to the metal used and the high price it brings. Again, residents were advised to be aware when parking their cars.

Following a request from a resident in Salford Priors, checks had been carried out on the 30 mph areas and it was found that the speed was being exceeded.

Anti Social Behaviour was an ongoing problem, as it has always been, and was being addressed.

Sgt. Moss proposed the following priorities for the next 3 months, which were approved:

- Anti Social Behaviour in Alcester and Bidford-on-Avon
- Speeding in Salford Priors
- Acquisitive Crime (burglary, car thefts etc.)

ACTION:

- Police to monitor the priorities
- Members of the public to be alert to heating oil and catalytic converter theft

You Said We Did - follow up action from the last meeting

The 'You Said We Did' presentation is on our website
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/communityforums

Update of Public Sector Budgets given by

- **Bob Malloy – Independent member of the Police Authority** (attached hereto)
- **Steve Smith – WCC Head of Service on budgets cuts** (attached hereto)
- **Liam Nevin SDC Head of Service on budget cuts** (attached hereto)
- **Mark Harris, NHS** (attached hereto)
- **Sue Green, CAB in Stratford upon Avon** – explained the problems being faced by the voluntary service with the cuts to grants from local authority. She confirmed CAB had sufficient funds for the year 2001/12 but they were having to dig into reserves!

Questions were raised and, where possible, these were answered by the officers, and included:

- Bidford library – various people made comments of the lack of vision on the part of WCC and that the residents would fight to keep it open
- Youth Services cuts – residents stated they were appalled and disgusted. It had taken years to get some sort of youth support and now it was going to be withdrawn
- Why had SDC been given a bill of £6,000 by the police in respect of the security of the Queen's visit to the RSC theatre?
- The future of Globe House, Alcester and its occupants.

ACTION

- There would be a single issue Community Forum on Monday 9th May @ 7.00 pm at the Crawford Memorial Hall: issue Library closures
- Police Authority to look into the reason for the charge to SDC and send a reply

Localism Bill – what it means for the public and local authorities

Steve Smith made the presentation (attached hereto) but added this was still work in progress and it would be some time before it became law

Health and Care Act – The Future for the Public Health Services

Mark Harris made a presentation (attached hereto)

Opportunities in 2011 – Influence Future Housing Development in the District

Stephanie Chettle, SDC, made a presentation (attached hereto).

She emphasised the importance of community involvement in the process as it would determine the planning of the district until 2028.

Information Sharing:

- **Feedback from young people**

Rob McCluskey gave the following feedback o

- Rural Youth Project has been working in Bidford-on-Avon since Sept.,2010 meeting some 45 children each week. They are currently meeting in the Youth Club working on a Music Project
- Also working in the Alcester Area on the Conway Fields since February 2011 with approx. 30 youths on health issues
- Continuing to work with Alcester TC and their partners on the building of the new Depot Youth Facility

ACTION

- Councillors and other interested parties to lobby to identify or establish a mechanism that will ensure that any new voluntary developments in the community have a body to contact to assist them to become established and flourish.

- **Update on the Greig, the Pavilion & ~ Exercise Watermark**

Chris Wright reported that:

- SDC were looking into removing the covenant on The Greig
- Pavillion project was proceeding: £175,000 had been raised and planning approved
- Exercise Watermark had taken place during the day of Monday 7th – it had been challenging.
Bidford had also taken part.

Items for Future Meetings:

- Participatory budgeting
- The Grieg

Dates and venues of future meetings

Next meeting is Tuesday 21st June at St. Benedicts, Alcester

Tuesday 13th September 2011

Thursday 8th December 2011

Monday 5th March 2012

Action

Available venues within the forum area to be proposed for future event. Details to be sent to Amanda Wilson-Patterson (amandawilsonpatterson@warwickshire.gov.uk) or the Clerk at Bidford on Avon (info@bidfordonavon-pc.gov.uk)



Warwickshire
POLICE AUTHORITY

The authority behind the force

Warwickshire Police Authority

- **Bob Malloy Independent Member**
- **Web site Warwickshirepa.gov.uk**
- **Email: policeauthority@warwickshire.gov.uk
(subject Bob Malloy)**
- **Telephone: 01926 412322**
- **Twitter [@WPA_bobmalloy](https://twitter.com/WPA_bobmalloy)**
- **Warwickshire Police Authority 3 Northgate Street,
Warwick CV34 4SP**

Future Funding Challenge

Warwickshire
POLICE AUTHORITY

The authority behind the force

- **Funding gap of £22.9m (out of £100m approx.)**
- **New policing model will deliver £13.4m of this when fully implemented**
- **Further budget gap of £9.5m remains.**
- **Proposals being worked up to see how the £9.5m savings can be delivered**
- **No council tax increase (£174.10 Band D)**
- **No guarantees can be given as to the future of policing until plans for the £9.5m of savings are approved.....**



Warwickshire
POLICE AUTHORITY

The authority behind the force

Warwickshire Police Authority

Force Performance 2006 -2010

April-Sept. 06 compared to April-Sept. 10

- **All Crime down by 6,302 offences (-27.4%)**
- **Road Death and Injury down 28 (-13.5%)**
- **Serious Violence down 401 victims (-21.3%)**
- **Burglary/Vehicle Theft down 967 (-42.9%)**
- **Public Satisfaction up 76.7% to 84.8% (+8.1%)**



Alcester/Bidford Community Forum

Public consultation opportunities in
2011 – your chance to influence
future development in the District

**Stephanie Chettle
Planning Policy Manager**



Introduction

Purpose of the presentation:

- Background to planning policy work underway at Stratford on Avon District Council
- Changing national policy position
- What needs to be reviewed for Alcester, Bidford and the surrounding area?
- Opportunities to have your say and to influence future development



Planning policy work at Stratford on Avon District Council

- Saved Local Plan Review 1996-2011
- Currently forms the development plan for the District alongside the Regional Spatial Strategy
- Work is underway to replace and update existing planning policies with the Local Development Framework (LDF)
- Requirement to produce an LDF – Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004



Role of the Core Strategy

- Evidence gathering to underpin new planning policies
- Core Strategy contains strategic planning policies for the District
- Contains proposals for development until 2028
- Key point – Core Strategy does not deal with housing development alone, very small part of its remit.



Changing National Policy Position



The Coalition Government and the Development Plan system

- Localism Bill published in December 2010.
- Seeking reform to make the planning system clearer, more democratic and more effective.
- Abolition of the Regional Spatial Strategy.
- 'Business as usual' with Core Strategy production but also introducing Neighbourhood Plans.
- Third draft of the Core Strategy to reflect national changes
- Urgency to get the Core Strategy in place
- strategic policy framework at the local level



**What do these changes mean for
Alcester, Bidford and the surrounding
area?**



Key issues to be reviewed for Alcester

Draft policies seeking to address:

- Drainage issues
- Deprivation in the northern part of the town
- Enhancement of the historic core of the town
- Improvements to retail provision, services, youth and sporting facilities
- Promoting tourism
- Providing a range of premises for businesses
- Managing traffic in the town centre
- Tackling local housing needs, especially affordable housing.



Key sites to be reviewed for Alcester

4 proposed allocations:

- North of Arden Road (14 hectares)
- East of Kinwarton Farm Road (5.8 hectares)
- North of Allimore Lane (17 hectares)
- Land off Moorfield Road (1.0 hectares)



Key issues to be reviewed for Bidford

Draft policies seeking to address:

- Protection and enhancement of the attractive historic village centre
- Improving drainage infrastructure
- Replacing poor quality urban fringe uses in the Friday Furlong area
- Providing a replacement medical centre
- Reducing severance caused by through traffic
- Increasing opportunities for local businesses and jobs
- Tackling local housing needs, especially for affordable housing



Key sites to be reviewed for Bidford

4 proposed allocations:

- Friday Furlong, Waterloo Road (7.7 hectares)
- North of Bramley Way (1.9 hectares)
- North of Salford Road (3.7 hectares)
- Land to east of Waterloo Park Industrial Estate (1.6 hectares)



Key issues to be reviewed for the rural areas/smaller villages

Policies stating:

- Expected that 20% of District's housing development will be allocated to Local Service Villages over 20 year period.
- Local Service Villages include Great Alne, Salford Priors, Welford-on Avon and Wilmcote
- Means that small scale housing and employment schemes can be identified by the local community in their area.
- If these are not sufficient, allocations will be made for 2016 onwards in a Site Allocations Development Plan Document.



Opportunities to have your say and to influence future development



What are the benefits of getting involved?

- Once reviewed and adopted, policies will shape places in the District for the next 15-20 years.
- Your chance to let us know whether the existing proposals are correct and if not, what should be done.
- Have the key issues for your local area been properly addressed?
- Is the distribution of future development correct?



Opportunities to have your say

Forthcoming Core Strategy consultation:

- Community Forum meetings – March 2011
- Parish and Town Council Workshops – March 2011
- Public and Stakeholder consultation – October 2011
- Pre-submission consultation – May 2012
- Consultation database, Citizens Panel, October 'roadshow', your District Councillors.



Thank you

Any questions?

Localism Bill

Public Engagement Aspects

Links between the Big Society and the Localism Bill

- Lifting burden of bureaucracy
- Empowering communities to do things their way
- Increasing local control of public finance
- Diversifying supply of public services
- Opening government to public scrutiny
- Strengthening accountability to local people

Local Referendums

- Changing governance of local authorities/elected mayors
- Excessive increase in Council Tax
- Neighbourhood planning (if parish plan adopted)
- Upon demand – on any local wellbeing issue signed by 5% of electors

Community 'Right to Challenge'

- Obliges Councils to consider alternatives to current public sector service delivery
- Expressions of interest can be submitted by VCS, Town/Parish Council, 2 or more employees
- If EOI expressed and accepted, Council must run procurement exercise – no requirement to change supplier

Community 'Right to Buy'

- Creation of list of assets of community value
- Assets on this list cannot be disposed of without a moratorium during which a community interest group can bid to take over the running of the asset

Planning Reform

- New duty to co-operate obliges planning authorities to work together to ensure sustainable development of land and build strategic infrastructure
- Simplification of planning law and limiting Planning Inspectorate's rights to reject or amend local Development Plans
- New duty for developers in major projects to consult local communities before submitting planning applications, and to take account of consultation feedback when submitting the application

Neighbourhood Planning

- New powers (not compulsory) to enable Town/Parish Councils/Neighbourhood Forums to develop Neighbourhood Development Plans that set out policies in relation to the development and use of land in their area, and take certain planning decisions
- Scope for agreement about what constitutes a 'Neighbourhood Forum'
- Limited powers for Planning Authorities to approve or modify planning applications
- Neighbourhood Plans subject to binding referendum – if approved, must be incorporated into wider Development Plan unless 'material considerations' indicate otherwise

Other Provisions

- General power of competence – enabling councils to undertake commercial activities through a company
- Wide ranging powers for Fire and Rescue Authorities
- Abolition of predetermination rules – enabling councillors to speak their mind or express views on behalf of constituents in certain planning matters
- Abolition of the Standards Board – encouraging local voluntary codes of conduct

Other Provisions

- Publication of senior officer pay
- Abolition of the Infrastructure Planning Commission
- Abolition of Tenant Services Authority – requirement for Councils to develop a tenancy strategy and greater flexibility for Councils to set policies on social housing
- Automatic small business rate relief

Health & Care Act

Mark Harris, NHS Warwickshire gave a verbal presentation on this highlighting the changes to the NHS in Warwickshire.

Warwickshire has a lot of older people and is currently spending £820m per year mainly on acute health services. As a result of a coalition change and how the NHS will work, clinicians will be at the head of the NHS. In Warwickshire there will be a local GP consortia who will have a budget and will decide on the services that are needed for their community. From April the PCT will become trust committees and will work in shadow form. From 2013 consortia will be responsible for the commissioning of services. NHS Coventry will exist with 2 consortia in Coventry. Both the PCT and the consortia will exist as statutory bodies until 2013. Coventry & Warwickshire will start to work more closely together.

Public Health changes will be mainly preventative re: binge drinking and the Director of Public Health will be a joint appointment with the NHS and the local authority. The local authority will have a new body via the health and wellbeing board and the patients and public will have Health Watch

NHS Warwickshire spends £820 million each year and is predicting a break-even budget position for the end of the 2010/11 financial year. Next year we are facing a significant gap between our budget allocation, which has seen a 2.2% increase, and the cost of healthcare that providers in Warwickshire are predicting. We are looking to narrow this gap by working with clinicians to look at more efficient ways of referring patients for surgical procedures.

The NHS budget nationally is largely being protected. However, we are facing running cost reductions right the way across the health system between now and 2015. At the moment we do not know what the running costs reduction target for NHS Warwickshire will be or what specifics the target will cover, but it is likely to be aimed at efficiency savings and back-office functions rather than frontline services.

Budget Briefing for Community Forums – March 2011

The County Council approved its 2011/12 Budget on 15 February 2011.

Key Headlines:

- ◆ No increase in council tax in 2011/12
- ◆ £15.5 million of new investment in services to meet rising costs and increased demand
- ◆ £32.9 million of savings next year
- ◆ A further £33 million of savings over the following two years.
- ◆ Estimated job losses of up to 1,855 over the next three years

Spending Plans

The £15.5 million additional spending needed, includes inflation costs (£5.8m), the cost of borrowing (£1.6m) and demand pressure in adult social care (£3.2m) and for looked after children (£3.1m).

Reserves

Legislation requires that the authority keeps a minimum level of reserves to cover any financial risks the authority may face during the year. There are no reserves above this level available to support spending.

Redundancy Costs

The authority has set aside £10 million to meet the estimated costs of redundancy.

Balancing the Budget

The savings of £32.9 million will be found by delivering the agreed savings plan of £21.9 million next year and cutting specific services previously funded by government grant by £11 million.

The £21.9 million savings are detailed in a saving plan, alongside the £33 million savings plan for the next two years. The full detail of the £11 million saving for services previously funded by grant will be considered by Council in March.

Capital Programme

The focus of the capital programme is to only fund the minimum level of capital maintenance over the period of the Comprehensive Spending Review to reduce the pressure on the revenue budget.

New schemes investing £44 million in 2011/12 have been approved. The main areas for additional investment are:

- ◆ £17.5 million to maintain school buildings and provide additional space where needed.
- ◆ £10.3 million for road maintenance and to keep the road network safe.
- ◆ £6.8 million for the maintenance and safe operation of our existing buildings.
- ◆ £1.0 million for replacement fire engines, the associated equipment and command and control systems.

Impact of the Budget

The magnitude of the financial challenge means change is inevitable; services will undergo major reform and the council itself will become smaller. It will do this through:

◆ **Becoming more efficient and effective**

The council will share services with other public sector organisations, reduce the number of public buildings, restructure the workforce and decrease the number of management roles. The council will also move from providing all services to enabling others to provide services in the community.

◆ **By doing things differently**

The council will modernise the way services are delivered by:

- ◆ widening the range of services available online
- ◆ providing a one-stop-shop approach to access to services across the public sector
- ◆ enabling older people and adults with disabilities to live in their own homes for as long as possible
- ◆ working more actively with communities and voluntary groups to find local approaches to service delivery that will make services sustainable in the future.
- ◆ developing sharing services and working more closely with other authorities.
- ◆ working with other local authorities and businesses to shape the use and allocation of Government money to create new jobs in the private sector.

◆ **Tough Choices**

The need to make £66 million of savings has presented the council with tough choices. Particular areas of concern from press coverage, letters and emails include:

- ◆ the closure of residential homes and day centres and increases in charging
- ◆ charging for all discretionary elements of school/college transport
- ◆ closure of the youth service
- ◆ transformation of the library service, including closures
- ◆ reductions in grants to voluntary and community sector groups
- ◆ reduction in the days/hours of operation of household waste recycling centres
- ◆ stopping subsidised bus services, reducing safety camera activity, switching off street lights, reducing funding for community transport

Further Information

Further detail is in the “Facing the Challenge” publication and in the budget resolution itself. These documents are available to the public via the council’s website at

<http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/facingthechallenge>

Stratford on Avon District Council 2011/12 budget.

Stratford on Avon District Council set its budget on the 28th of February 2011. The council chose to freeze the level of council tax for 2011/12. The average Band D figure for Stratford-on-Avon District Council households for the 2011/12 financial year remains the same at £129.34, the lowest in Warwickshire.

This means that all the services provided by the District Council are only costing £2.49 per week for a Band D household.

Approach to setting the 2011/12 Budget

Joint officer/member activity on-going since May 2010 to identify scenarios where savings and additional income could be achieved to meet the budget shortfall which was a combination of known budgets pressures and the revised CSR introduced by the new Coalition Government. Members presented with options to consider ways to deliver the budget shortfall. Following criteria used to develop scenarios:-

- **SDC Financial Strategy** which outlined the approach to delivering the medium term financial plan. This included:-
 - **'Prioritisation of Functions'** - identify the priorities in respect of their contribution to the wellbeing of the District. The following definitions employed:
 - Critical = "must do" – delivery remains crucial
 - Important = "should do" – delivery is important
 - Desirable = "nice to do" – delivery is relatively less important.
 - **Hierarchy of Savings**
 - 1 Savings or income proposals in all discretionary and statutory functions that have no impact on front line services or back office services or any reputational impact to the Council e.g. efficiencies, new charge for a service;
 - 2 Savings or income proposals that reduce overheads costs;
 - 3 Savings or income proposals in all statutory or discretionary functions that may have a staffing or reputational impact to the Council, but provide greater efficiency or could result in increased income;
 - 4 Discretionary front line functions/services that are desirable to the well-being of the district, including discretionary elements of statutory functions/services (i.e. services provided in excess of the statutory minimum);
 - 5 Discretionary front line functions/services that are important to the well-being of the district, including discretionary elements of statutory functions/services (i.e. functions/services provided in excess of the statutory minimum);
 - 6 Discretionary front line functions/services that are critical to the well-being of the district, including discretionary elements of statutory functions/services (i.e. services provided in excess of the statutory minimum);
 - 7 Core statutory functions/services.

The results of the following key consultations were used:-

- **Simalto Budget Consultation 2010** - People were given a set 'budget' (made up of points) to prioritise the services delivered by the District Council that they feel are most important to them. The points were then converted into money which reflects the District Council's budget. Residents could choose to spend their points on keeping things as they are, cutting back or investing in the service areas that matter most to them. 253 face to face interviews took place during October 2010 representative of area, gender and age. An online version of the exercise saw 263 people completing it via the SDC website.
- **Stratford District Residents Survey 2010** - Took place in November and December 2010 to ask the opinions of residents about the quality of life in the area and how well the Council is doing at delivering services and what could be done differently. A response rate of 38%.