

Stratford on Avon District Council

Bidford & Salford Ward Update August 2011

District Council Recycling Collections

The District Council have received a number of enquiries regarding recycling collections.

When recycling is collected it is taken to a recycling centre where the contents of the bin are sorted and sent out to various places where the raw materials can be processed.

To make this process economic and to allow people to put out mixed recycling this process has to be highly mechanised and with this in mind the scheme has always required users to place recycling loose in their bins.

The council have had an ongoing problem with people placing non-recyclable material in the recycling bins and placing their recycling in plastic bags. This cannot then be processed by the recycling plant, it shows up as contamination, reduces the percentage of waste that can be recycled and increases landfill.

To try and tackle this issue the council have recently issued press releases and most recently attached 'luggage labels' to all grey bins in the district reminding users what can be placed in the recycling bin and highlighting that it should not be in plastic bags.

Following these initiatives our contractors are now taking more care to ensure that the recycling we collect complies with the scheme and is suitable for processing.

This has resulted in some bins being refused collection.

When this happens a label is placed on the bin explaining why it was refused.

Some residents have taken exception to this and complained, some have also contacted the Stratford Herald. The Herald has also offered to place an article on their website explaining why it is important that recycling is uncontaminated and loose in the bin.

Any excess recycling will be picked up in the next round of recycling collections if it is placed in an open box next to the bin but unfortunately the contractors are unable to go back and pick up recycling before the next collection.

It is important that the council resolve the contamination problems as it affects our recycling percentage and our recycling credits as well as increasing the waste that goes to landfill.

If the council fail to deal with the issue its gate fees at the recycling facility could rise increasing costs for everyone.

The council hope that the actions taken and the publicity raised by this will result in recycling being presented in an acceptable form and things running more smoothly however the council is likely to attract some negative publicity in the short term.

Gypsy & Traveller Provision within the District

Work is currently underway to gather evidence to determine the level of need for Gypsy and Traveller provision in the District.

This work programme will inform the preparation of the Core Strategy and subsequent Development Plan Documents.

Peter Brett Associates are undertaking this work on the council's behalf, in accordance with a Brief signed off by the Local Development Framework Working Group.

As a part of the work the consultants propose to undertake a survey with Parish Councils between 15th August and 16th September.

Site surveys will be undertaken throughout the District on 18th and 19th August and in the following week.

Warwickshire Police – Residents Concerns

Some residents have expressed concern over the new policing arrangements that have come into effect since June at various Community Forum Meetings police response times and attendance has been a major issue.

This is the incident log of a 999 call made when local family were woken in the early hours at 03:35 by intruders attempting to break into their property.

03:40 – 999 call made.

At 03:45 a unit was dispatched as an immediate response at this time the nearest resource was at Grey's Mallory.

As they were so far away it was suggested that West Mercia Police may be able to assist as they may be closer, this is common in such places. A dog unit was dispatched but this unit was at Coleshill, other Warwickshire units were also sent.

The first vehicle arrived on the scene at 4.06am, 26 minutes after the call.

The West Mercia unit arrived 2 minutes later and officers were informed that the offenders had left 10 minutes earlier.

At 4.22am the dog unit states they were still 25 minutes away and a decision was made to cancel the dog unit as it was now over 20 minutes since the offenders had left the scene.

Superintendent Adrian McGee Head of Incident Resolution states:

"Warwickshire Police does not have a response time for attending incidents called on 999s, we do have response times which relate to immediate response incidents, which not all 999 calls are.

This incident was quite rightly graded an immediate response incident.

In such cases we aim to attend 75% of immediate response incidents within 20 minutes for rural locations and within 10 minutes for urban locations. In this case we were 4 minutes outside that target time.

It took us 24 minutes to arrive on scene, 4 minutes outside the emergency rural response target.

It appears that the reason for our delay in attendance was in part due to a 5 minute delay between the incident being saved and a unit being dispatched.

This was further compounded by there being no units nearby and units having to be dispatched from Greys, Leamington & Coleshill as well as calling for assistance from West Mercia.

My investigations show that 4 units were dispatched to the incident, 3 of which attended, the dog handler being cancelled prior to arrival.

There is always a challenge to attend rural incidents as there is always a tendency for the urban areas to draw in the resources, however we are introducing technological solutions for officers and the Communications centre to enable better tracking of our vehicles and enable them to be more visible in the communities by reducing their need to return to police stations".

Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

Stratford on Avon District is required to divide its area into polling districts for the purposes of parliamentary elections, and to designate polling places for each of those districts.

In order to satisfy requirements introduced into the Representation of the People Act 1983, the council is required to complete a full review of all polling districts and polling places by the end of 2011.

The council's Audit & Regulatory Committee requested that each District Councillor be contacted for their views regarding polling places within their own ward.

In undertaking the review the council must seek to ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances, and have regard to the needs of electors who are disabled.

Officers have a policy of reviewing electoral arrangements as an ongoing basis for that reason the general principle underpinning this review is that of minimal change.

Below is a schedule of the current designations within the ward.

In addition, officers intend to identify appropriate possible alternative locations, and will seek the views of the Returning Officer as to the suitability of the existing locations or any alternatives being proposed.

The council's Audit & Regulatory Committee will then consider a full report on the review in September before Council reaches a final decision in October.

Polling District Letters	Polling place	Electorate
DS	The Crawford Memorial Hall, Bidford	3722
DT	The Village Hall, Broom	405
DW	The Village Hall, Wixford	138
EA	The Memorial Hall, Salford Priors	1194

Planning Statistics

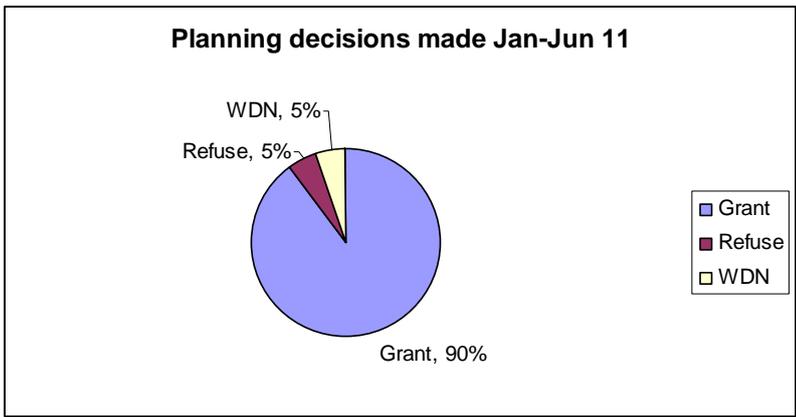
Planning Applications January to June 2011

The average number of applications received during this time is 188 per month and the average number of decisions for the same period in 156 per month.

Even after discounting these figures for those which are withdrawn or invalid there is a discrepancy between the two statistics which means a backlog of applications is developing.

APPLICATIONS GRANTED REFUSED OR WITHDRAWN

The 90% figure of applications granted compares favourably to previous years: 2010/11: 84%: 2009/10: 86% and is above the national average which is 75%



Major Applications

Performance so far this year on Majors is approximately 30% down on that for last year.

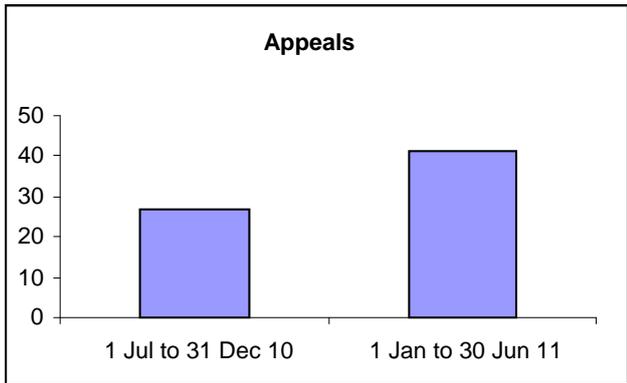
Householder Applications

There is a mixed picture of performance with the average for the year to date falling approximately 10% behind the figure for last calendar year.

Minor Applications (none householder)

The overall performance in making decisions within time (8 weeks) is currently in line with last calendar year.

Appeals



The case load for the Planning Team is currently running at approximately 80 cases per officer which is comparable with that found within a London Borough.

Due to the volume of applications coming to Planning Committee (West) in early September, it has been decided to hold an additional Committee on Thursday 8th September, 6.15pm in the Council Chamber.

The items on the agenda for the 8th are likely to generate a fair amount of interest and are:

1. 10/02714/FUL - The Grieg Hall, Alcester
2. 11/00385/OUT - Kinwarton Farm Road Alcester

Catalogue recycling reminder

With the new Argos catalogue launched on the 30th July, the district council is encouraging residents to recycle their old catalogue in the blue-lidded bin, rather than throwing it in the grey bin.

Each catalogue weighs 2kg and there are over 36 million in circulation across the UK each year, so each one recycled will make a significant contribution to the District Council's recycling tonnage.

The latest Argos customer research shows that 79% of their customers are recycling their old catalogues.

This figures means that thousands of catalogues are going into landfill each year.

As well as the Argos catalogue the District Council would like to take the opportunity to remind residents that all store and mail order catalogues plus brochures, telephone books, Yellow Pages and Thomson Directories can be put in the blue-lidded recycling bin.

The Argos catalogue features both the 'recycle' logo and 'PEFC' logo on its back cover and is 100% recyclable.

The District Council is taking part in a Government electoral register pilot project.

The District Council is one of 22 selected local authorities to take part in separate pilots for making the electoral register more accurate and complete, with the scheme to be rolled out across the country if successful.

Last year the Government announced that from 2014 voters will be asked to register individually in order to modernise the electoral registration system and tackle fraud.

The data matching pilots are being held during 2011 and will allow local authorities to compare their electoral register with other public databases to identify people missing from the register or entries on the register that are inaccurate or fraudulent.

Between authorities combinations of data from public authorities including the Department for Work and Pensions, the Department for Transport, the Department for Education, HM Revenue and Customs, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Ministry of Defence will be used.

Stratford District Council's pilot is considering the accuracy of data regarding the over 70s, those rising 18 and service voters across the District. To do this data will be matched with the Department of Work & Pensions (DWP), HM Revenues & Customs (HMRC) and the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

The costs regarding the pilot will be funded by the Central Government and so there will be no extra cost to the District Council.

These pilots will enable the Government and the Electoral Registration Officer to see how effective data matching is, plus which data sets are of most use to local authorities in improving the accuracy and completeness of the electoral register.

As part of introducing individual electoral registration, the Government will take steps to improve its accuracy and completeness, by seeking to add people who are eligible to vote but are currently missing from

the register, and taking steps to identify and remove any individual who is on the register but is not entitled to be.

The aims are to tackle under registration among specific groups while at the same time ensuring that the electoral system is not vulnerable to fraud.

If data matching proves effective, the Government will consider rolling it out more widely across local authorities on a permanent basis to help ensure that the electoral register is as complete and accurate as possible and if this is the case Stratford District Council will have all the systems in place from the pilot so saving time and money in the future.

The District Council has already begun providing data holders with information from the electoral register.

The data holders will check against their data and return a report to the Electoral Registration Officer; this will include matches and non matches against the register.

If data matching identifies names on the register that are not found elsewhere then the Electoral Registration Officer will be able to investigate whether those entries are legitimate and likewise, if data matching identifies eligible individuals who are not already on the register then the Electoral Registration Officer will offer them the opportunity to register.

Future Housing Numbers & Employment Land

The Cabinet will be considering the findings of the Housing Provision Options Study and Employment Land Study on 5th September. Both studies by the District Council's consultants G.L.Hearn will be used to determine the levels of future housing and employment provision in the District to 2028 and will help inform the preparation of the Core Strategy and subsequent Development Plan Documents.

NatWest Community Force Grants

NatWest have a scheme to assist local people make a difference in their community.

NatWest CommunityForce is more than just financial support; it is about connecting people to projects. Groups can also ask for help in the shape of volunteering time and expertise from local people on their website.

If you know a local charity, organisation or group which you think would benefit, please ask them to register at: <http://communityforce.natwest.com> by 4th September.

NatWest's goal is to make sure that the Government support they have received is paid back in every sense. Part of that is about supporting the communities in which they work and CommunityForce is one way in which they hope to do that.

NatWest CommunityForce helpdesk: 0800 2100 246

Dates of future Alcester & Bidford Community Forum Meetings in 2010/11

Tuesday 13 th September 2011	-	Bidford PC meeting room
Thursday 8 th December 2011	-	St Benedicts High
Monday 5 th March 2012	-	Crawford Memorial

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

Meeting Diary

Date:	Meetings Attended (KJ)
27-06-11	Bidford on Avon Parish Council
04-07-11	Day 3 Public Inquiry Welford on Avon
06-07-11	Planning Committee West
11-07-11	Full Council
11-07-11	Community Leadership Course Wychavon District Council
12-07-11	Wixford Parish Council
13-07-11	Green Belt Issues Planning Group - Studley
25-07-11	Friday Furlong / Bidford PC / Tetlow King Planning / Cranbrook Homes
25-07-11	Bidford on Avon Parish Council
27-07-11	Planning Committee West
09-08-11	Meeting with Planning Manager
11-08-11	Bidford Library – Public Meeting
	Future Meetings
17-08-11	Planning Committee West
22-08-11	Bidford on Avon Parish Council
23-08-11	Local Development Framework Working Group
30-08-11	Local Development Framework Working Group
01-09-11	Members Seminar Future Housing Figures District Wide
07-09-11	Planning Committee West
08-09-11	Planning Committee West

Councillor: Kim James

August 2011