

Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council

IN THE COUNTY OF WARWICKSHIRE

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Mrs. E. Uggerløse – Clerk to the Parish Council

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Paul Harris
Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Elizabeth House
Church Street
Stratford-upon-Avon
CV37 6HX

12th October 2010

Dear Mr. Harris,

I refer to the various letters sent by Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council in respect of the proposed Core Strategy, and to the points raised therein.

Having looked into the proposed growth of Bidford-on-Avon in more depth, the Parish Council has agreed to a formal request to re categorise Bidford-on-Avon to a settlement of lower order as it does not believe it is sustainable as a “main rural centre” compared to Alcester and Henley.

- 1. Health:** the current medical centre is full to capacity, as it not only serves the population of Bidford-on-Avon, but of surrounding villages and hamlets as well.

Plans for new premises have been under discussion for a good number of years with no conclusion. The Parish council believes very strongly that until such time as a new health/medical centre is built and is fully operational, no further large developments should be considered.

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.

2. Transport:

- Public transport is poor with only the No. 28 bus offering a regular half hour service to Evesham and Stratford.
One of the main requirements is a good service to the 3 hospitals used by the local community which are in Coventry, Redditch and Warwick, There is no direct service to either Coventry or Warwick, and the hourly bus to Redditch does not go to the hospital. This is of great concern, as it can take up to a whole day for a resident to go and return from Coventry either as an outpatient or a visitor.
- As already mentioned in previous correspondence, the road system in Bidford is already under great stress. The number of new developments in the last 20 years has resulted in an increase in the number of vehicles, and with over 75% of the working population travelling out of the village to work, congestion is inevitable.

3. Education

- Bidford-on-Avon Primary School is full to capacity – large developments would require more placements which the school will have difficulty in meeting.
- As the High School was closed in the 80s and the land sold for development, all children of secondary age plus have to be bussed to various schools in neighbouring Alcester, Stratford and even further afield.
The lack of a high school in Bidford, and the variety of schools attended, results in a lack of cohesion amongst the youngsters in the village and give rise to potential anti social behaviour. It also results in fewer amenities for teenagers.

4. **Shops/services:** since the building of the relief road, B439, the number of shops in the High Street has declined to a point where they are almost nonexistent! When WCC drew up its Village Plan for Bidford in 1970 it stated that it *“is a shopping area of local importance to the small settlement surrounding the village and as such offer more superior facilities by way of shops, banks and professional offices”* Regrettably, that is no longer the case, with shops struggling to survive in a village which although has grown in size, has been cut in half by the B439, with most of the new development being built to the north of it.
None of the proposed areas for development are suitable for shops/services, as they are locked in sites.

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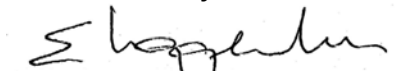
The Parish Council also believes that the lack of public funding likely to occur over the next years should be taken into account. As an example, there would appear to be little point in securing funds for schools under a S106, if the LEA is not in a position to spend any money extending schools or building new ones.

Finally, the Parish Council would point out that the key issue for its request is that over the last 10-15 years, Bidford-on-Avon has seen much residential development **but without the necessary new infrastructure, and with a decline in the existing infrastructure.**

The Parish Council trusts you will seriously consider the above issues, together with all other points put forward by the Parish Council in its previous correspondence, and grant its request, which should be implemented through the emerging LDF

Should you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me, and a meeting with the Parish Council can be arranged at a suitable date and time.

Yours sincerely,



Elisabeth Uggerløse
Clerk to the Parish Council



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