

Core Strategy Special

Stratford-on-Avon District Council has endorsed an updated draft of its Core Strategy, the document that will inform where development will take place across the District over the next 15 years. The strategy seeks to protect the historic and environmental qualities of the area that make it so attractive. It sets out proposals that balance the need for economic growth and housing provision with the wish to protect and enhance the environment.

The new approach is based on developments being more widely dispersed across the whole District. Given that a major housing development west of Shottery is now expected to go ahead, the strategy recognises that the historic character and international significance of Stratford-upon-Avon would be compromised by any additional peripheral housing expansion during the plan period.

There are a number of key elements within the Strategy, for example:

- > The need to provide 9,500 new homes and an additional 57 hectares of employment land across the district.
- > Provision for additional housing and employment related development at Alcester and Southam to reinforce their role in servicing their respective areas.
- > An acknowledgement that many smaller villages can accommodate a limited amount of housing development as long as proposals are sensitive to the specific character of each village.
- > The identification of new Special Landscape Areas, recognising that some areas of particularly high landscape quality make an important contribution to the image and enjoyment of the District.
- > The retention of the Areas of Restraint – largely open areas of land within and adjoining the towns and larger villages where the openness will be maintained to protect the historic and environmental character of the settlement and to avoid coalescence.
- > Other than for the release of three areas of land to meet employment needs, the retention of current Green Belt boundaries to prevent urban sprawl and maintain the openness of that part of the District lying generally between Stratford-upon-Avon and the West Midlands conurbation.

All of these proposals emanate from previous draft versions of the strategy and have therefore been subject to public consultation. However, the latest strategy does include some key initiatives that have not been consulted on to date, notably:

- > **The Canal Quarter Regeneration Zone - a 20 hectare site covering Western Road and parts of Wharf Road, Timothy's Bridge Road and Masons Road in Stratford-upon-Avon that will be redeveloped to provide a mix of new housing, offices and light industry.**
- > **New Business Parks on two sites totalling 29 hectares and located adjacent to the A46 at Stratford-upon-Avon, involving land east of Birmingham Road and south of Alcester Road - this will provide space for existing businesses to grow and for new businesses to get established.**
- > **Creation of a new settlement at Gaydon/Lighthorne Heath - a 290 hectare site that will eventually provide 4,800 new homes, an 18 hectare business park, a village centre with a range of shops and services, additional local shopping centres, new schools and parkland/woodland areas.**

These proposals are now subject to further public consultation during the period 1 August 2013 to 13 September 2013.



The representations made during that period will be considered before the Council decides whether they should be incorporated into the overall strategy. This decision will be made in October, after which there will be a further period of time when representations about the appropriateness of the whole document can be made.

The Council will then have to consider these representations before deciding whether it can submit its Core Strategy document to the Government for independent examination.

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Public Consultation

The immediate round of public consultation focuses on the new initiatives mentioned previously. We hope that many of you will take the opportunity to comment by looking at the on-line document at www.stratford.gov.uk/csnew2013 and completing the electronic comments form.

However, in terms of public events the consultation is restricted to drop-in sessions and Community Forum meetings in the areas most directly affected by the proposals.

The timetable for these sessions is as follows:

Gaydon / Lighthorne Heath drop-in sessions		
Wednesday 7 August	11.00am - 2.00pm	Gaydon Village Store
Tuesday 13 August	4.00pm - 6.00pm	Lighthorne Heath Primary School
Wednesday 21 August	9.30am - 1.00pm	Kineton Coffee Stop Café
Thursday 29 August	5.00pm - 8.00pm	Lighthorne Antelope Pub
Wednesday 4 September	10.00am - 1.00pm	Bishops Itchington Late Shop (Co-op)
Monday 9 September	3.00pm - 7.00pm	Lighthorne Heath Village Shop

A Community Forum meeting will be held to consider the Gaydon / Lighthorne Heath proposal on Tuesday 13 August (6.00pm) at Lighthorne Heath Primary School.

Stratford-upon-Avon drop-in sessions		
Tuesday 6 August	10.00am - 12.00pm	District Council offices, Church Street
Friday 16 August	11.00am - 3.00pm	Morrisons, Alcester Road
Tuesday 20 August	9.30am - 1.00pm	Stratford Library, Henley Street
Wednesday 28 August	4.00pm - 8.00pm	Tesco, Birmingham Road
Thursday 5 September	5.00pm - 7.00pm	Stratford-upon-Avon School, Alcester Road
Tuesday 10 September	2.00pm - 5.00pm	District Council offices, Church Street

The Stratford-upon-Avon proposals will be considered at the Community Forum meeting to be held on Thursday 5 September (7.00pm) at Stratford-upon-Avon School, Alcester Road.

