

WDC PLANNING
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Officer
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PRE GEN DIS

9957.

Warwick District Local Plan

NPPF 12. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment

item 126

"Local planning authorities should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment." We are reminded that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and that we have a duty to conserve them and/or enhance them.

I believe that the present local plan putting over 3,000 houses south of Warwick will seriously damage the enjoyment of historic Warwick and is a serious threat to this heritage asset - (due to greatly increased traffic through the town, increased air pollution, the long term effects of pollution on the health of people in Warwick, loss of greenfields to the south of Warwick, constant noise and vibration from traffic.

We must take seriously "the conservation of the historic environment" if we are to "benefit the town economically, socially and environmentally". Clearly the proposed development will not "make a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness".

item 129

The proposed development south does indeed "affect the setting of a heritage asset" very dramatically - from the removal of green fields, from the infill of development. ~~at the town~~ The proposed traffic management scheme that would follow to extend the width of the Banbury Rd to 4 lanes and remove the trees in front of the Preparatory School that front the road and put in 2 lanes of traffic around the crossroads can only be for the benefit of traffic movement. The impact of this proposal on the heritage asset of Warwick itself is devastating. Similarly for the proposed traffic management scheme at the Castle Gate. It breaks instruction 129. The green fields to the south of Warwick are as important as the Green Belt to the North. Together they provide a green setting for this County town and enhance it as a heritage asset. The present green entry from the south goes all the way from the A452 right into town to the Old Castle Gate. This is the most beautiful entry into old Warwick. ~~at the town~~

item 132

Again we are told by NPPF that "heritage assets are irreplaceable, any harm or loss requires convincing justification" - "Substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance,

Notably... grade II* listed buildings should be wholly exceptional".

The Warwick single span stone bridge opened in 1793 is listed Grade II*.

(a) The view down the river of Warwick Castle when standing on this bridge is world famous. A dramatic increase in traffic to and from the south will make noise and fumes so constant and unpleasant whether walking up from Bridge End and Myton fields or from the old Castle Gate, that this heritage asset would become virtually lost to people.

(b) There is a weight restriction for vehicles coming into Warwick. At present this isn't enforced and would be extremely difficult to enforce. It would be difficult to prove that we are not putting the bridge itself at risk by a heavily increased volume of traffic. It is checked regularly and considered safe at present. There is some concern in the profession over the working life of masonry arch bridges. We are instructed by NPPF 132 to ensure that we do protect a Grade II* building (the bridge) and put this into our considerations.

item 178.

"Public bodies have a duty to co-operate on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries. The Govt. expects joint working in areas of common interest to be diligently undertaken for the mutual benefit of neighbouring ^{authorities} ~~authorities~~."

Stratford District Council is ^{proposing} ~~considering~~ a new town at Gaydon. This will give rise to another large increase of traffic coming north on the Barbury Rd into and through Warwick. This greatly increases the problems mentioned above that will arise for Warwick if both the Stratford & Warwick plans go ahead. We request our 2 Councils to work together on these proposals.

We appeal to the officers and councillors that will be considering this local plan to take due note of the NPPF instructions for Conserving and Enhancing the historic environment of Warwick and not to put at risk the health, well-being and quality of life of all of the residents of Warwick, Whitnash, Bishop's Cleeve and Leamington. We can do better to serve the whole area of 'leafy Warwickshire' (as it was known).