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RESIDENTS MAKING HISTORY
THE RELEASE OF PROPOSALS FOR STRATFORD-UPON-AVON'S DRAFT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN IS
UNVEILED AT
STRATFORD TOWN HALL OPEN DAYS, SUNDAY 30 JUNE & MONDAY 1 JULY.

Residents are one step closer to having legal rights to shape the future of their town following the launch of the draft version of the Neighbourhood Plan for Stratford-upon-Avon. Its public consultation period kicks off with two Open Days at Stratford Town Hall.

Prepared by a team of volunteers, the Draft Plan sets out a series of guidelines on issues close to residents' hearts such as where new homes and offices should be built and what they should look like, how green spaces ought to be protected or enhanced, and how the town centre can be improved.

Chairman of the steering group, Mark Haselden, says "With representatives from 40 different Stratford associations, we had a good cross section of the community on the team. It wasn't always easy to agree on issues but we had a common goal - to make Stratford a better place to be - and we think we've come up with a plan that has our lovely town's best interests at heart. This next stage involves everyone in Stratford; have a look at the Draft and let us know if you agree with us!"

The Town Hall opens its doors on Sunday 30th June, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Monday 1st July, 1 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Residents can check the details of the Draft Plan, comment on its proposals and make further suggestions for the finished document. There'll also be a questionnaire to fill in to record opinions. The Draft and questionnaire are also available online at www.ourstratford.org.uk

Feedback will be incorporated into the finalised Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan will then be inspected by an independent examiner. If approved, all those who live or work in Stratford will be invited to vote in a referendum. If the Plan is supported by more than 50% of the votes, the local planning authority must bring it into force.

Mark Haselden adds that it's vitally important that Stratford has a Neighbourhood Plan, "Without it, the town will be at the mercy of developers, Whitehall, The Town Hall or the District Council; it's about time Stratford residents had a legal say in the town's future."

Background

The Neighbourhood Plan is a central part of the Localism Act which came into effect in April 2012, setting out a series of measures to shift power away from central government and towards local people. It forms a new tier in planning policy, enabling residents to shape the development of their community for the next 20 years.

The steering group includes representatives from The Stratford Society, Stratford Voice, Stratford Vision, four residents' associations, Warwickshire Police, Clopton Forum, three secondary schools, Old Stratford and Drayton Parish Council, Stratford BID, Accessible Stratford, SCAN, Stratford Churches Together, Town Trust, Transition Stratford, WCC, District Councillors, Town Council, VASA and numerous residents with invaluable skills (including a retired Planning Officer).

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