

8 Lawn Street

Stourbridge

DY8 3UQ



September 4th, 2017

only one; 6891

BLACK COUNTRY CORE STRATEGY – CONSULTATION

A few weeks ago I visited the stall in the Rye Market , Stourbridge, relating to the above Consultation. I was, frankly, unimpressed, both with the lack of information, and in the questions posed in the questionnaire. To answer these questions sensibly takes a level of knowledge that most residents of the borough cannot possibly possess. In one sense, I was reminded of the utter impossibility of weighing up the conflicting evidence in the Brexit referendum, when even those with a robust knowledge of socio economic policies would have experienced difficulties in making an informed decision!

However, perhaps to keep me quiet, I was given a full copy of the Issues and Options Report, which I have been studying since – though much of this is extremely specialist, making reference to other reports.

I do feel now that I am able to comment with a degree of understanding on some areas of the report, and these follow.

Transport

The impact of phasing out fossil fuels for cars won't be felt until 2040, but any planning now should look to this – this is acknowledged (P91/2, 6.1.24, and especially p95, 6.1.39). What plans are being made though to facilitate charging points in residential areas where there is no access to off street parking?

Social Care – The Elderly

The rapidly changing demographic that sees an ageing population increasing should have been specifically included in the 10 objectives listed on P35. Again, p50, 5.8, fails to target this group. However, p62, 6.10; p63, 6.13; p99, 6.1.53 all go some way to redress these earlier omissions, though I would question why this sector of the population were not mentioned earlier in the general objectives.

There is however the 'bigger picture' that no one body seems capable of grasping, at either local or national level, and this is having, and will continue to have , a huge impact on the affordable housing market, as detailed on pp68 – 69, 6.35 to 6.40. Before care costs became so expensive, the estate of deceased parents was passed down to their children, who could often release this, or some of this, to enable the grandchildren to put down a deposit on a house. However, much of the estate of the elderly is now taken up with care costs, leaving little to release back into the general economy, impacting on the numbers of first time buyers. Increased tuition fees for higher education also

impact on this scenario. Whilst I acknowledge this is a national problem, its effects are going to have an impact on any local planning for both lifelong housing and affordable housing.

Regeneration of Town Centres

P84, 6.84 – ref Stourbridge. The inner ring road precludes much more town centre development, but I would suggest that vacant units be made available for community/arts groups to bring a new sense of vitality into the town centre.

Waste

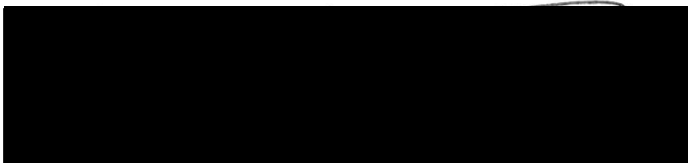
P104, Figure 12 – this shows the key role the Stourbridge Birmingham Road Civic Amenity Site has in providing for the south of the region. Any suggestions to close this and relocate to Brierley Hill will have a disproportionate impact on the local environment.

As for the rest?

I'm not in an informed position to comment. Anything that promotes the realisation of the diagram on p61, Figure 10, should be embraced and celebrated, but resources are deemed to be finite, and therefore I have to rely on the authenticity and transparency of both local employed officers who are specialists, and local elected representatives who should be above party pettiness and keen to secure the best deals for their electorate.

I hope this isn't asking too much - - - - -

Yours truly

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Kevin Street

A handwritten signature in dark ink, starting from the bottom left of the redacted area and extending towards the right.