

Warwick Town Centre Plan - Issues Report of Public Consultation

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Warwick Town Centre Plan – Issues Paper

Report of Public Consultation

Introduction

This report has been prepared in support of the public engagement that has taken place in connection with the development of the Warwick Town Centre Plan. The report summarises the results of the consultation on the Issues Paper.

The Plan is being prepared by Warwick District Council in partnership with Warwickshire County Council, Warwick Town Council, Warwick Chamber of Trade and Warwick Society. The partners consulted on an Issues Paper in order to identify what the opportunities and issues that face Warwick Town Centre might be and how these can be addressed. Public consultation commenced with an exhibition, held in the former Hydropool building in central Warwick, during March 2010. The exhibition was visited by **621** people during the two long weekends that it was open. Members of the public, statutory consultees and local groups were invited to comment on the issues identified and add any they felt we had missed. They could do this by completion of an online questionnaire via the dedicated website www.warwicktowncentreplan.org or Warwick District Council's own website www.warwickdc.gov.uk/areaactionplan or by submitting comments by letter.

The consultation period ended on 30 April 2010 and a total of **170** responses were received the results of which are reported here. These comments will be taken into consideration when the partnership prepares an Options Paper, which is the next stage of the plan and which will again be consulted upon. The Options Paper will set out the vision and key objectives for the plan and consider what the options are to achieve them. The consultation will give every opportunity for organisations, statutory bodies, councillors and members of the public to be involved and have a say in the way the plan will develop.

This report is available on the websites as mentioned above and publicity around the report will be distributed around the town centre.

Summary/Analysis

- **96%** of respondents agreed that protecting **historic buildings** and places is a key issue making this the issue with the greatest support. This is very encouraging given the historic background and wealth of listed buildings and scheduled monuments there are within the town centre. This is particularly important in a town which encourages visitors with the opportunities to see and visit so many historic buildings and places. Warwickshire County Council Archaeologist suggests that it is important to ensure that any site for development should first be investigated for archaeological remains.

- **88%** of respondents considered that enhancing **parks and opens spaces** is a key issue, demonstrating a clear need and enjoyment of green spaces in the town and on the edge of town. Again this is important to local people and to visitors, particularly those within a reasonable drive who may just visit St Nicholas Park for example. Greater connectivity is suggested.
- **86%** of respondents thought that the impact of **traffic** on the town centre is a key issue. Measures are in hand to alleviate some of the traffic problem in part of the town centre, with other phases to follow in due course, but there is still a strong feeling that this is a major issue affecting air quality and causing damage to historic buildings.
- **85%** of respondents considered that the relationship of the **castle** with the town is a key issue. It is generally felt that visitors need to be encouraged to stay in the town to sample what the town has to offer as well as enjoying a day at the castle. Warwick needs to be a destination town. Discussions will have to take place to ensure that castle management and the town work together to achieve this. Early indications through the consultation process show that the castle is willing to do this.
- **83%** of respondents agreed that developing the economy of the town by providing more **shops** is a key issue. The type of shops required to do this is not agreed upon however, with respondents split as to whether a large anchor store, supermarket or small independent shops would achieve this. Those supporting small, independent retailers suggest that it would be wrong for Warwick to try to compete with larger retail centres close by.
- **83%** of respondents agreed that the town should make use of **development opportunities** by providing more or better car parks, preferably free. Others thought that developing Shire Hall and the Courts as a visitor attraction or shopping mall would encourage investment.
- **76%** of respondents considered that improving **access** to the town centre is a key issue. Suggestions for doing so included more parking close to the shops, introducing a park and ride scheme, improving disabled access, providing cycle access and linking of transport systems.
- **72%** of respondents agreed that the **town centre boundary** is drawn correctly, whilst others felt that the parks on the periphery of the boundary and the castle should be included. It is generally agreed that although the town centre plan refers to the town centre boundary as drawn, the scope of the plan should be widened to include related areas beyond.
- **67%** of respondents agreed that the relationship of the **racecourse** with the town is a key issue. The comments were very much in keeping with those expressed on the same issue with regard to the castle and connections will need to be forged between the two.
- **65%** of respondents thought that there should be more/better **public services**. The majority of concerns related to the lack of or condition of public toilets, especially with many visitors in the town. Public transport

also came in for criticism in that there isn't enough and timetables are disappointing, particularly in the evening. Lack of police on the beat was also a criticism, as was the poor condition of the railway station and the lack of buses linking to it.

- **62%** of respondents considered that the town should offer more **visitor attractions** with more events and shops opening on Sundays. It was generally felt that there are hotels in the town, but that there is a lack of B&B accommodation. Marketing of the town was also considered to be an issue with a current lack of encouragement to visitors to make this a weekend destination. Joint marketing of attractions is recommended.
- Less than half of respondents thought that there should be more **offices** in the town centre, that more and varied **housing** is needed or that we should be concerned with **climate change** at a local level. It is generally considered that, offices available are not attractive as they do not offer what lessees/purchasers require of modern offices. It is also considered that there are too many flats or poor quality houses in the town centre.
- Only **17%** of respondents thought that more **cafes and restaurants** are needed. The vast majority (**72%**) disagreed, with more than half thinking there are too many already and others thinking that the number is about right

Warwick Town Centre of the Future:

When asked about the future of the town centre and how it should be perceived, respondents used the following words to describe their view of the town by 2026:

Vibrant, exciting, high standard, market town, individual, harmonious, continental, mix, distinctive, pedestrianised, greener, viable, historic, cultural, informative, efficient, entertaining, wealthy, creative, buzzing, quirky, al fresco

Thank You

Many thanks to all those who visited the exhibition and/or took the time to complete and return the questionnaire to us. Your responses will help us in the next stage of plan preparation, the options paper. Please watch the website for details of the launch of the next period of consultation when the paper is published. You can also subscribe to the Warwick District Council (Planning) email alert system which will let you know automatically when new documents are published.

A full report of responses received and the number of respondents for each point can be found at Appendix 5 of this document.

APPENDIX 1

Context

Warwick is the cultural and historic county town of Warwickshire with a rich historic environment of medieval streets and many listed buildings including the internationally famous, Warwick Castle. The town has independent, specialist shopping, markets, pubs, restaurants and coffee shops, museums and theatres all serving the local population and visitors. It is also a town with modern day pressures. Some of the listed buildings in public and private ownership are vacant or will become vacant within the next few years, leaving them in need of re-use, intensification of use or redevelopment. The town has a lot of traffic passing through it every day, much of which is heading for destinations beyond the town. There is an air quality management area declared for part of the town centre due to the pollution caused by the resulting congestion.

To deal with this and other issues, Warwick District Council, in partnership with Warwickshire County Council, Warwick Town Council, Warwick Chamber of Trade and the Warwick Society, is producing a Town Centre Plan (or Area Action Plan) for Warwick town centre.

APPENDIX 2

The Process

There are a series of stages that the plan has to pass through before it can be adopted. It will become part of the Warwick District Council Local Development Framework which will guide the determination of planning applications for new development and inform other strategies for the town centre. The Plan will be considered by an independent Government Inspector after a series of public consultations following each stage of the process. These stages are:

- 'Issues', this was the first stage of the process and its purpose is to gain consensus on the key issues, needs and constraints facing the town centre. This process has already taken place commencing with an exhibition which ran in central Warwick in early March this year with a consultation period ending on 30 April. This document is the report of that consultation.
- 'Options' (Autumn 2010) is the next stage of the process and the public will be consulted on realistic options to address the key issues which have been identified through the consultation.
- 'Publication' (Spring 2010) will be the next stage where the Council will publish a draft of the Plan for public consultation taking into account responses to the options. The draft must be informed by evidence gathered by the Council or other partners.
- 'Submission' (Summer 2011), the Council are then required to submit the draft Plan and all comments received, to the Government
- 'Examination' (Winter 2011), an Inspector appointed by the Government will test the draft Plan, the evidence and all comments made against a number of criteria before writing a report setting out their conclusions.
- 'Adoption' (Spring 2012), the Council will adopt the Plan in accordance with the Inspector's report

The timetable for the plan is governed by the District Council's progress on its Core Strategy, however, it is important to note that specific initiatives or schemes could come forward earlier than the adoption of the Plan in 2012 subject to their consistency with the overall vision and direction for the town centre. The Plan will also be subject to a sustainability appraisal to ensure that it helps deliver sustainable development.

APPENDIX 3

The Issues Paper and Public Consultation

The partnership produced an 'Issues' paper for public consultation which took place in March and April this year. An exhibition launched the consultation and gave local people the opportunity to meet the partners and discuss the issues. The paper put forward some ideas as to what the issues may be and asked for views on these and suggestions of others which may not have been considered. The consultation ended on 30 April. The issues identified by the partnership included:

Defining the town centre boundary

Protecting historic buildings and places

Making use of development opportunities

The impact of traffic

Improving access

Developing the town centre economy

The provision of a varied housing stock

Providing more/better public services

Climate change

Enhancing parks and gardens

The relationship between Warwick Castle and the town, and

The relationship between Warwick Racecourse and the town

The responses of the public and statutory consultees to these issues and suggestions for others are included in the results of the consultation appended to this report (Appendix 5).

The statutory consultees are listed in Appendix 6.

APPENDIX 4

Exhibition and Invitations to Engage:

As part of the consultation process, an exhibition was set up at the former 'Hyrdopool' building in Market Street, Warwick. The exhibition was staffed and opened to the public after a press launch, over two long weekends in March. A late night and Sunday were included to ensure that those running businesses in the town would have an opportunity to visit, become involved and respond.

Additionally, emails were sent to all the local schools offering to address children in assemblies or classrooms to draw out the views of those who will inherit any changes made to Warwick over the next few years. Local interest groups and parish councils were also offered the opportunity to invite staff along to introduce the concept of the plan and become engaged in the process.

As a result, Westgate Primary School requested that staff speak to the whole school at an assembly on 22 April. Following this presentation, associated work was generated and two classes of children have prepared written work and drawn pictures of what they like to do in the town and what they would like to be able to do if the facilities were available. This work is to be displayed as part of the report of the consultation locally and the school will be kept informed of future stages to ensure continuity and further engagement.

APPENDIX 5

Summary of Responses

Defining the Town Centre:

72% of respondents agreed that the current town centre boundary, as defined by the Local Plan, is correct. 28% did not agree. Of those who did not agree, suggestions included:

- Including St Nicholas and Priory Parks (*23 responses*)
- Including the castle (*13 responses*)
- Including the racecourse and St Mary's Lands (*13 responses*)
- Including the railway station (*12 responses*)
- Including Coten End shops (*5 responses*)
- Excluding residential areas on the edge of town (*3 responses*)
- Including the Leper Hospital (*3 responses*)
- Including the new council offices at Saltisford (*1 response*)
- Including vacant police station (*1 response*)
- Redefine Stratford Road area (*1 response*)
- Excluding Albert Street area, Hill Close Gardens area, Sainsburys (*1 response*)

Protecting Historic Buildings and Places:

96% of respondents agreed that this is a key issue and that the historic environment and buildings should be protected. 2% had no opinion or did not know. 2% disagreed. Comments included:

- Something should be done about – Leper Hospital (*7 responses*), East and West Gates (*8 responses*), old Post Office (*4 responses*), old river bridge (*1 response*), court buildings and gaol (*8 responses*), Northgate Street (*1 response*), Lord Leycester Hospital (*1 response*) and its arch, St Mary's Church (*1 response*)
- Shire Hall should be hotel (*2 responses*)
- Historic buildings should be protected but also used (*1 response*)
- Street scenes should be protected (*1 response*)
- Old gas works and Legal and General offices should be turned into offices for county council (*1 response*)
- New buildings should be sympathetic to historic surroundings (*1 response*)
- Historical buildings need not have detrimental effect on development opportunities (*1 response*)
- Former residences on Northgate Street should be reinstated to that use (*1 response*)
- Use old courts as new Registry Office (*1 response*)
- Council need to CPO where owners will not co-operate (*1 response*)

- Replace/enhance buildings that spoil the town centre (1 response)
- Need investment (1 response)
- Historic environment must be seen as driver for place-shaping which respects local character (1 response)
- Support development of policy to encourage owners of historic assets to maintain appropriately (1 response)
- Little specific reference to archaeology (1 response)
- Courts should be handed to British (English) Heritage and run as attraction (1 response)
- Museum should be used in connection with market (1 response)

Making Use of Development Opportunities:

83% of respondents felt that this is a key issue. 13% had no opinion or do not know. 4% think that it is not. Comments include:

- Car parks need improving/demolishing/providing/making cheaper/free/long stay (16 responses)
- Develop Crown court as museum and Shire Hall as shopping mall (5 responses)
- No more flats (3 responses)
- More clothes shops needed and indoor market (3 responses)
- Businesses should be helped with cheaper rates (4 responses)
- Retain green spaces/plant trees (2 responses)
- Need development to attract business conferences by day and clubs/recreational facilities by night (2 responses)
- No point in ruining the town to pursue development opportunities if it destroys that which attracts people (1 response)
- Warwick shouldn't try to compete with larger centres (1 response)
- Any development should enhance the town (1 response)
- No house building just to meet government targets (1 response)
- Do not need shopping mall (1 response)
- Restore historic views by removing 1960's monstrosities (1 response)
- Redevelop printing works, garage and 'hydropool' buildings (1 response)
- Encourage development of empty buildings for museum, exhibition space, artists, sustainable living (1 response)
- Need new town centre hotel (1 response)
- Complement but not necessarily mimic historic assets (1 response)
- Necessary for wealth generation to improve town. Need high value jobs. Cannot rely on tourism alone or contemplate competing with other towns as shopping destination (1 response)
- Public art needed in Market Place (1 response)
- Return bus station to car park use (1 response)
- Remove planning restrictions on businesses advertising (1 response)

Reducing the Impact of Traffic on the Town Centre:

86% of respondents agreed that this is a key issue. 8% had no opinion or did not know. 6% disagreed. Comments include:

- Park and ride needed on edge of town for school children/council workers/town centre workers (27 responses)
- Problem of traffic using through town route with no intention of stopping (20 responses)
- One way system needed in central area (8 responses)
- Deliveries cause major problems and should be restricted to certain times of day. Lorries often in centre of street making no attempt to park (7 responses)
- Pedestrianisation of Market Square/Market Street/Swan Street/other streets needed (6 responses)
- Chauffeuring of children biggest problem (2 responses)
- Traffic calming measures needed (2 responses)
- Lack of parking. Chronic parking problems in evenings deterring diners from supporting restaurants (2 responses)
- Traffic could be improved with another bridge over the Avon in castle grounds (2 responses)
- Wider pavements, more crossings needed, should be made safer for pedestrians (2 responses)
- Park and Ride a 'total waste of time' (1 response)
- Increase bus service/encourage integrated transport/cycle routes/cycle parking needed/taxi rank needed (1 response)
- Roads should be declassified to B roads (1 response)
- New route needed between Warwick and Leamington avoiding town centre (1 response)
- Bus station has improved traffic flow (1 response)
- Area needed for coach setting down and picking up point (1 response)
- Easier for Woodloes residents to drive to Leamington than park in Warwick town centre (1 response)
- All new development should have off street parking/underground car parks (1 response)
- Remove traffic lights at Globe/Theatre Street and have mini-roundabout to reduce stationary (polluting) traffic. Make High Street/Jury Street a 'red route' as in London (1 response)
- Prefer Market Square to be busy with buses and car activity with 15 minute parking spaces (1 response)
- More promotion of car parks needed especially St Mary's Lands which is only 5 minute walk from centre, yet underused (1 response)
- Take account of work of Traffic Forum (1 response)
- Stop traffic turning right into and out of St Nicholas Park (2 responses)
- Make Chapel Street two way or one way the other way (1 response)
- Build another bridge over the river (1 response)

- Insist developers pay for upgrading infrastructure (*1 response*)

Improving Access to the Town Centre:

- 76% of respondents agreed that this is a key issue. 13% had no opinion or did not know. 11% disagree. Suggestions for improving access often overlapped with those for the previous question with the majority of comments being about car parking, park and ride schemes and reducing traffic to encourage pedestrians. Other comments included:
 - Open Barrack Street car park to visitors and shoppers (*6 responses*)
 - Improve cycle access (*5 responses*)
 - Frequent bus service needed to link town centre with train station (*3 responses*)
 - Poor condition of train station- prime way for tourists to arrive but is appalling (*3 responses*)
 - Signage is not always clear and attractive (*3 responses*)
 - Need to make Warwick more accessible by wheelchair (*2 responses*)
 - Times when town centre is a 'no go' area – Mop, Victorian evening and cycle races (*1 response*)
 - There is nothing to attract people to the town (*1 response*)
 - Carriage rides from the castle (*1 response*)
 - Not a real priority (*1 response*)
 - Will be addressed if traffic issues are solved (*1 response*)
 - Inconsistency in parking regulations cause confusion (*1 response*)
 - Real time bus displays required (*1 response*)
 - Reduce number of cycles (*1 response*)
 - Build another bridge across the river (*1 response*)
 - Remove kerb stones at Punch Bowl PH to make it two way permanently (*1 response*)
 - Remove un-used cycle ways along Emscote Road (*1 response*)
 - Sort out lane markings on roads (*1 response*)

Developing the Town Centre Economy:

Shops

83% of respondents agreed that providing more shops and services is a key issue. 11% had no opinion or did not know. 6% disagreed. Comments included:

- No more restaurants/coffee shops (*15 responses*)
- Warwick does not need to look like every other town by encouraging national retailers. Need to retain independent, small retailers. More variety. Too many chain stores coming to town centre (*8 responses*)
- Must attract visitors into the town to spend money there (*8 responses*)
- Need to encourage more shops, supermarkets, chain stores. Need Debenhams/ H&M/Wilkinsons/Poundland/Asda Home/BHS/John Lewis/music shop/wine store (*8 responses*)

- More creative use of Square required along the lines of Stow in the Wold/Broadway (6 responses)
- Variety of businesses needed and not all biased toward visitors (3 responses)
- Shops need to open on Sundays (2 responses)
- Turn old post office into a cinema/need cinema/theatre (2 responses)
- Assist new businesses financially (2 responses)
- Difficult to achieve in current economic climate (1 response)
- Need new recreational facilities (1 response)
- Add to vibrancy with more shops and reconnection of old street patterns (1 response)
- Should have indoor market (1 response)
- Improve visual appearance to encourage investment (1 response)
- Bring clock back into Market Square (1 response)
- Improve or demolish Linen Street car park (1 response)

Employment/Offices

46% of respondents agreed that providing more employment and offices is a key issue. 26% had no opinion or did not know. 28% disagreed. Comments included:

- We have enough offices. Discourage as they do not provide a night time economy. Historic town should be main event and offices excluded (17 responses)
- Any employment opportunities should be welcomed (11 responses)
- Need more workers in town to boost economy lost by council workers moving out. Need parking provision however (11 responses)
- Need to bring in new businesses to maintain mix of services. Offices should be part of mix and not dominate (3 responses)
- Retail is the key, not offices (3 responses)
- Reduce rates for first year of trading (2 responses)
- Offices should be on edge of town centre freeing up parking for shoppers/visitors (2 responses)
- Stop Leamington taking Warwick's employment and offices (1 response)
- Offices over shops is a good way to utilise space (1 response)
- People working in town just bring congestion (1 response)
- There are plenty of business parks around Warwick for this (1 response)
- There are significant opportunities for employment/offices/mixed use developments (1 response)
- No encouragement for new businesses unless parking provided (1 response)

Visitor Attractions

62% of respondents agreed that providing more visitor attractions and accommodation is a key issue. 17% had no opinion or did not know. 21% disagreed. Comments included:

- More events on Sundays – more shops, antique markets, classic car events, craft fairs. A Sunday market once a month running down Swan Street and Smith Street with all shops open *(10 responses)*
- Not enough visitor accommodation. B & B's are needed. Racecourse hotel is a good idea. Consider old buildings for hotel conversion. More visitor accommodation would play to geographic strengths. Hotels out of town are defeating purpose *(9 responses)*
- Castle, racecourse and museums are probably sufficient *(8 responses)*
- Make Warwick a two day stay destination *(5 responses)*
- Develop and use Market Place *(5 responses)*
- Buses for castle should drop off in bus station so that visitors pass through and stop in town centre *(2 responses)*
- Do not charge/reduce cost for Sunday parking in the car parks *(2 responses)*
- Shopkeepers should see Mop as advantage *(1 response)*
- Move Mop to the racecourse *(3 responses)*
- State of the art ice rink would benefit locals and draw in visitors *(1 response)*
- Devise town trail to encourage visitors into town *(1 response)*
- Lack of signage needs addressing *(1 response)*
- Marketing needed *(1 response)*
- Need to make town more aesthetically pleasing *(1 response)*
- Need visitor strategy *(1 response)*
- Increase in visitor accommodation could encourage overnight stays as would extending opening times to evenings and Sundays *(1 response)*
- Potential for Courts and parts of Shire Hall to become additional visitor attraction and boutique hotel *(1 response)*
- No hotel at the racecourse *(1 response)*

Cafes and Restaurants

17% of respondents agreed that providing more cafes and restaurants is a key issue. 11% had no opinion or did not know. 72% disagreed. Comments included:

- There are too many *(24 responses)*
- About right number *(15 responses)*
- More are needed *(6 responses)*
- If visitors are encouraged by town pubs and cafes then these will increase automatically *(2 responses)*
- Quality more important than quantity *(2 responses)*

- Need more 'tea rooms' and tables and chairs set up in Market Square (1 response)
- All about a pleasant environment (1 response)
- Café culture makes Warwick a lovely place to live, work or visit (1 response)
- May be opportunities to link cafes and restaurants with attractions to maximise attractiveness to visitors. Consider joint marketing (1 response)

Providing more varied Housing:

45% of respondents thought this a key issue. 25% had no opinion or do not know. 30% disagreed. Comments include:

- No more housing in town centre. Restrict to out of town except for Northgate Street (16 responses)
- There is a proliferation of flats in the town centre and we need family houses and accommodation for the retired (9 responses)
- Flats make good use of unused buildings/over shops (5 responses)
- Mix of housing provides better sense of community (4 responses)
- Infrastructure needs to be able to cope with resident population (2 responses)
- Standard of housing needs to be high (2 responses)
- More town housing will not increase spending power. Use brownfield land for new businesses to encourage employment and therefore wealth (1 response)
- Opportunities for housing on brown field sites in town centre, but needs to be sympathetic to towns historic layout, form and character (1 response)
- Consider old post office building (1 response)

Providing more or better Public Services:

65% of respondents thought this a key issue. 26% had no opinion or do not know. 9% disagreed. Comments include:

- Need another set of public toilets and others need smartening up (13 responses)
- Bus services are excellent but need bus on Sunday from Hampton Magna to Warwick (6 responses)
- Park and shuttle bus needed for office workers/school children (5 responses)
- Better public transport needed (4 responses)
- More police required and visible on the streets (4 responses)
- Access to railway stations and convenience needs rethink (2 responses)
- More central services needed – doctors/ dentists/a walk in centre (2 responses)
- Cleaner roads needed, especially near the racecourse (1 response)

- Better parks and green areas. Town centre playground would be nice (1 response)
- More conservation (1 response)
- Signs imply one needs to catch a bus to train station (1 response)
- Only see diminishing public services, especially post offices (1 response)
- Dustbin collection and emptying of street bins is very good (1 response)
- Library and tourist facilities need promoting and should be more visible (1 response)
- Schools won't be able to cope with expansion of housing in Warwick (1 response)
- Schools and medical services have been under pressure for some time and the council haven't reacted (1 response)
- Better signing needed (1 response)
- One Stop Shop has strengthened public service provision so less of an issue (1 response)
- Pavements in bad condition – chewing gum, effluent running down Theatre St (2 responses)

Climate Change:

45% of respondents thought this a key issue. 28% had no opinion or do not know. 27% disagreed. Comments include:

- In future our way of life and industry will be geared to low carbon/need to reduce carbon emissions (6 responses)
- Unlikely plans to alter Warwick will have global impact (6 responses)
- Important issue is air quality which would improve if heavy vehicles were restricted (4 responses)
- Buildings should be eco-friendly (4 responses)
- Better cycle routes needed and cycle tracks that don't just disappear. Safe parking for cycles required (4 response)
- Need fewer cars in town centre (3 responses)
- Needs to be looked at from all angles, not just cars (3 responses)
- Need more trees (3 responses)
- We have always had climate change – think about the last ice age. Do not subscribe to greenhouse hype. Climate change will occur naturally (3 responses)
- More concerned about air quality (2 responses)
- Should be for the individual not the district council (2 responses)
- All new development should exceed sustainable building code (2 responses)
- Improve traffic management to reduce idling vehicles on roads (2 responses)
- Warwick should get ahead of the low carbon game and create a brand image (1 response)
- Climate change clouds the issues (1 response)

- No wind turbines in Smith Street (1 response)
- Do not agree that human activity is main cause of climate change (1 response)
- Focus on pollution, sustainability and recycling, not climate change at this micro level (1 response)
- Balanced approach needed (1 response)
- Do not believe solar/wind power viable in small town (1 response)
- Plan should look to reduce greenhouse gas emissions wherever possible (1 response)

Enhancing Parks and Open Spaces:

88% of respondents thought this a key issue. 8% had no opinion or do not know. 4% disagreed. Comments include:

- More controls in Priory Park to cut use as dog toilet. Should be used for nature conservation/natural parkland for visitors to enjoy and picnic in (13 responses)
- Need more shelters/toilets/seating/tree planting in parks and better paths (7 responses)
- St Nicholas Park is an excellent park, well maintained and with great facilities (6 responses)
- Parks are poorly maintained and show little pride. St Nicholas Park is in terrible state. Warwick's Parks neglected in favour of Leamington's. Haven for drunks and drugs (4 responses)
- Love parks for their individual characteristics. Priory Park ancient woodland. St Nicholas Park for children, open field, river and boating. Lamas Common (3 responses)
- Not a key issue as parks and open spaces are run very well and well maintained. Encourage residents to get involved (3 responses)
- Develop on the outskirts of town to avoid building on these (2 responses)
- Enhance Market Square with shrubs, planters, seating, Victorian lamps (3 responses)
- Existing parks probably adequate if racecourse included (2 responses)
- Major parks are outside town centre boundary but smaller parks should be better cared for (2 responses)
- Promote healthy walks for family and hold more events in parks (2 responses)
- Signpost from town. Visitors do not know parks exist. Need to market as a town of gardens (2 responses)
- Visitors to parks do not go into town (2 responses)
- Increasing population and more visitors will put additional pressure on parks and open spaces (1 response)
- Cannot be a key issue when town is dying from lack of current business and facing bleak future without courts and civic jobs (1 response)

- Need more areas like that coming in from M40 with lakes and fountains (1 response)
- Over-utilisation will kill their appeal (1 response)
- Racecourse is only a part of St Mary's Lands. The racecourse is only open to the public on race days, the rest is available to the public. It also has 9 hole golf course. St Mary's Lands as a nature reserve failed to materialise due to inaction of Council (1 response)
- There are few children's play areas away from St Nicholas Park (1 response)
- What happened to the football pitches in the park? (1 response)
- Building new football pitches in the park did not help people living in Poet's Corner or Chase Meadow (1 response)
- Greater connectivity between all areas, especially open spaces, parks and gardens (1 response)
- Include any natural heritage assets and protected/notable species within and immediately adjoining the town centre (1 response)

Warwick Castle and the Town:

85% of respondents thought this a key issue. 10% had no opinion or do not know. 5% disagreed. Comments include:

- No overlap between town and castle now which is missed opportunity. Lower entrance fee and ensure all facilities are well advertised. Make the town an extension of the castle with events extending into the town (14 responses)
- Do castle visitors ever stay at hotel in Warwick other than for concerts? Encourage people to stay. Offer 'Historic Warwick' weekends. Guided tours for all Warwick attractions. Town trial, carriage rides, better signage, shops that attract (7 responses)
- Not sure where the attraction comes from in the future to encourage visitors (4 responses)
- Key to success of Warwick is getting castle visitors into the town. More Tussauds involvement in local community needed (1 response)
- Castle should display Warwick town leaflets and promotion within castle should be greater (1 response)
- Castle 'theme park' will continue to extract as much money as possible from visitors so unlikely to promote town (1 response)

Warwick Racecourse and the Town:

67% of respondents thought this a key issue. 24% had no opinion or do not know. 9% disagreed. Comments include:

- Same issue as link between castle and town (2 responses)
- Ask racecourse to announce town based events, restaurants, bars (2 responses)

- Race goers only interested in racing, not in town centre. Money spent on trying to attract them will give no return (2 responses)
- This could be a distraction from the big issue of trying to get employment into the town as with the castle link. Will not provide the bread and butter that town centre business needs (1 response)
- People from races come into town for food. Use Judges House and Shire Hall as hotel/retail to encourage more (1 response)
- Need to invest in attractions and do it better than the Castle (1 response)
- Racecourse hotel would keep people out of town (1 response)

Other Key Issues:

- Maintaining balance between needs of residents and those of visitors
- Council workers shouldn't have free town centre parking
- Vandalism, anti-social behaviour, drinking, noise
- Lots of consultation takes place, nothing comes out of it
- Why is fountain in front of Shire Hall not working?
- No mention of helping community groups. Should be a partnership between council and these groups to ensure developments are for everyone's benefit
- Warwick should emphasise sustainable development/housing which complements historic environment
- Warwick should retain its identity as a different (county/market) town from Leamington
- Demolish Barrack Street eyesore and put library in old court building
- Warwick lacks leadership to bring all these aspects together
- Mop fair is unsuitable for town centre
- Need cinema/gym/real ale festival/eating outdoors (protected in all weathers)/proper visitor centre
- Keep nightclubs out
- There are no books in print discussing Warwick's historic buildings
- Car parking at Cape Road for coaches so that visitors have to walk through town
- Construct roundabouts on all town centre roads to re-route drivers, thus avoiding town centre
- Ask people for their view before decisions are made (2 responses)

What sort of Town Centre would you like to see in the future?

- Vibrant, exciting town which is a joy to work, live, shop and relax in
- Historic town with attraction of mock trials at Court House, a tourist trail and good everyday shops
- Well kept with public buildings maintained to high standard
- Visitor friendly, welcoming, proud of historic buildings
- Better entrances to town. Pleasant surroundings, better signage, planted traffic islands

- Removal of unattractive buildings. Redevelopment of 60's and 70's buildings to improve harmony of architecture or remove to create impressive vistas
- True mixed use, individual market town
- Continental style atmosphere
- Thriving day and evening alike with distinctive attractions
- Traffic free/Semi-pedestrianised/pedestrian only with shuttle buses linking points of interest
- One good department store and widened range of shops around Market Square area
- Bring back the old fountain
- Greener town with relaxed feel, yet commercially viable
- Town should have its own historic attraction dealing with Norman and Tudor period
- Clean and safe with pavements in good repair and of good width
- One that caters for both local people and visitors
- Improved cultural events, heritage centre, pavement cafes, clear signage, information
- A strong economy with innovative new companies, complementing a healthy tourist trade, supported by efficient transport, high quality housing/schools and easy access to services and facilities
- Vibrant town based on modern wealth creating industries where people come to be entertained and dine
- A lively one, busy, buzzing, continental feel, quirky, with al fresco dining, outdoor theatre and shops providing all basics
- Good multi storey car park
- Rejuvenated streets
- Top of the market hotel in Judges House
- Road improvements/ no right turn into and out of St Nicholas Park/Saxon Mill. Ensure traffic movement. Create by-pass
- New bridge over river
- Large retailers present
- Insist developers pay for infrastructure

APPENDIX 6

Statutory Consultees

Government Offices/Departments/ Services

Government Office for the West Midlands
West Midlands Regional Assembly
DEFRA
Environment Agency
Severn Trent Water
Warwickshire Police
Advantage West Midlands
English Heritage
Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings
Oil & Pipelines Agency
West Midlands Fire Service
South Warwickshire PCT
HSE Chemical & Hazardous Installations Div
Department for Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform
Home Office
NHS West Midlands Division
Dept for Children, Schools and Families
Dept for Transport
Dept of Health
Dept for Works & Pensions
Dept for Culture, Media & Sport
Warwickshire Air Ambulance
Defence Estates
Ministry of Defence
Ancient Monuments Society

Other Local Councils

Birmingham City Council
Warwickshire County Council
Coventry City Council
North Warwickshire Borough Council
Nuneaton and Bedworth District Council
Rugby Borough Council

Utilities/Service Providers

E-on UK plc
Severn Trent Water
nPower
Scottish Power
Central Networks
British Gas
British Telecommunications plc
Powergen UK plc

Town and Parish Councils

Royal Leamington Spa Town Council
Warwick Town Council
Kenilworth Town Council
Whitnash Town Council
Ryton on Dunsmore Parish Council
Wellesbourne Parish Council
Brandon & Bretford Parish Council
Frankton Parish Council
Marton Parish Council
Beaudesert Parish Council
Princethorpe Parish Council
Stretton on Dunsmore Parish Council
Charlecote Parish Council
Chesterton & Kingston Parish Council
Fulbrook Parish Council
Hampton Lucy Parish Council
Long Itchington Parish Council
Newbold Pacey & Ashorne Parish Council
Preston Bagot Parish Council
Snitterfield Parish Council
Tamworth in Arden Parish Council
Ufton Parish Council
Wolverton Parish Council
Balsall Parish Council
Berkswell Parish Council
Brinklow Parish Council
Cubbington Parish Council
Lapworth Parish Council
Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe Parish Council
Norton Lindsey Parish Council
Old Milverton & Blackdown JPC
Radford Semele Parish Council
Bishops Tachbrook Parish Council
Bubbenhall Parish Council
Budbrooke Parish Council

