

(Note: The questionnaire has the reverse definition of Riverside North and South to the rest of the website / design document.) My main objection is to the proposed changes to the area from the Fisherman's car park to the Leisure Centre. It currently is a peaceful area to enjoy a quiet walk away from crowds in central Stratford. It is its unspoilt / uncommercialized state that I enjoy, it doesn't need improving. In the central area, the reduction of parking in the area near the boat house could be a problem for traffic arriving via the Banbury and Tiddington Roads. I agree that pedestrian safety is a problem at the junction at the Swan's Nest hotel, but this may be improved when the proposed traffic lights are installed at that location. Concerning the area towards Seven Meadows Road, I'm generally more OK with that, although there does seem to be quite a bit of unnecessary shoe-horning in of "literature" and "Shakespeare" which I doubt is a main reason for visiting Stratford for many of the day trippers / users of the riverside. Finally - for Lucy's Mill bridge mentions appearance improvements and cycle access, but does not actually say that the bridge will be made 'step-free' or wheelchair friendly - I think this is a key requirement.

: Additional parking is NOT a good idea, with a large park and ride currently outside of town and rarely used.

: Badly needed, I have lived and fished in Stratford for 60+ years and the land has never been used to its full potential. The main problem now is people are just using it as free parking and walking into town. Extend the parking, charge a fee and increase the attraction, can only be a win,win. Also at Lucy's mill, a wonderful idea, bring the country side into the town for the benefit of the town.

: I am glad to see Lucy's Mill Bridge mentioned in Riverside South. It's drab and neglected and needs attention. Also the Riverside Development ought to include a solution to the problem of the flights of steps at Lucy's Mill Bridge. The steps limit access for disabled people, wheelchairs, pushchairs and cyclists. The Riverside North area does need to be opened up, but cramming in so many activities and a big car park is too much. A simpler proposal which kept some of the existing wildness would be preferable

: I am in favour of much of the project, EXCEPT for the extension of the car park into what you call SCRUBLAND. This area is a precious resource to the area and provides a home for much of the flora and fauna there. It is this area that draws many of us to this place thought out the year long after the tourists have gone. it is very important to preserve these wild spaces for the true conservation of the area , not to pick and choose the bits you think are aesthetically pleasing . This scrubland is a huge learning resource and a place you should get to know before you dismiss it for tarmac. It is totally in opposition to the whole point of a nature reserve .we have enough provisions for tourists in our town and this area should be developed for local people who I am sure will be more Than happy to walk and cycle leaving their cars at home and helping the already congested roads, which I am sure you want to encourage. It is about time you consider the people who vote for you As well as the land you represent and I hope along with all those who feel strongly in opposition of this car park you do the right thing by us all.

: I am utterly against these ludicrous proposals. There is already biodiversity. Don't mess it up with tarmac, play areas, cafes etc.. Leave it alone please. Enough Disney in Stratford!

: I am very much in favour of this scheme to improve the Fishermans car park. To create access across to Lucy's Mill via a riverside walk and trails would be a great advantage not only for walkers, runners and cyclists but also for people with disabilities. It would help avoid long queues across Clopton Bridge into Southern Lane and alleviate the traffic entering and exiting the recreation ground. I would particularly like to see the children's play areas include equipment for disabled children in wheelchairs, manual and motorised as the current play area on the recreation ground is abysmal, non-existent. I also feel very strongly that revenue from any car parking charges should be ploughed back into the scheme and not handed over to national/private parking companies. My only concern would be with regard to the traffic congestion on the Warwick Road which we already have to contend with during the summer months. A scheme which would benefit, bio-diversity, wildlife, visitors, residents, and the Fisherman's car park greatly. A Great Area for All.

: I don't like anything about this project. It's going to cause the destruction of wildlife's habitat and increase pollution, due to the increase in traffic. I strongly object to it.

: I generally welcome generally some investment and improvement of the riverside facility however, I am concerned that the scale of works proposed cannot be completed by the funding achieved thus far. I am concerned about half finished projects which run out of cash becoming an eye sore or embarrassment to the town. Better to aim more modestly and complete a project than overstretch and leave a half done job. I am afraid that I don't believe that using the fisherman's carpark for shopping really holds much weight as a concept. I cannot see that people will want to travel that far with heavy bags to return to a car. I also don't feel that borrow bikes schemes could work on our small scale. The costs of resetting each day would outweigh the benefit in my view. Turning the fisherman's car park in to a 500 space park also feels undesirable. It also feels impractical in times of flood. Indeed, I don't think the issue of flooding is well resolved by the plans as they stand and that this issue will need considerably more thought. I am concerned that we need to ensure the protection of the wildlife in this area and do not feel the plans adequately address this issue. Whatever development is chosen, accessibility improvements would be welcome to extend the benefits to a wider group of people.

: I particularly don't like the idea of extending the Fisherman's car park. There is adequate space in the Leisure Centre car park which is underused. The Rec is already well used as a picnic area and does not require improvement to do this. Reducing flooding in the northern area will surely only lead to more flooding further south. Improving wildlife areas with conservation in mind is the only aspect that I like. I do not see how the scheme as a whole will improve trade in town or help the RSC. Visitors come to the RSC for the theatre, they are not more likely to come because there are extra walks nearby. Generally I think we need to keep more wild areas around Stratford rather than formal walks and car parks.

: I regularly walk into Stratford from Fishermans Car Park. I feel that this area would greatly benefit from regular maintenance of this wild area. Some of the trees have been neglected and few new ones replaced those dying. More paths could be cut through this area, but I am against turning it into an area of entertainment. Certainly the expansion of the carpark and the loss of the green area to enable this is not a plan I would support. Utilising the Leisure Centre Car Park would be preferable.

: I strongly feel that nature can thrive if left alone. Surely the existing businesses in Stratford would benefit more with support from Stratford District Council, rather than creating more competition. In both cases we should prioritise protecting what we already have.

: I STRONGLY object to a 500 space car park being built on flood plain / fields to the left of fisherman's car park! That land is floodplain when it floods it will force the water even further onto land with houses on the opposite bank of the river to Fisherman's car park. The park and ride in the north of the town is BARELY used anymore and I understand that half of it is now being sold for yet more housing....great just what the town needs more houses.....ask yourself this, where do all the people moving into these homes come from and what houses do they leave behind and are those houses being filled??? The old bathing place does require some improving but not to the detriment of the wildlife currently inhabiting that land, swans, ducks, Kingfishers and otters to name but a few

: I support the proposal to create a new country park from the Leisure Centre to the Fishermen's car park. I am a regular user of the area. Whatever biodiversity it may currently contain is hidden for much of the year by swathes of shoulder-high nettles. There is no shortage of similar unmanaged scrubland around the edges of Stratford where fields have been taken out of agricultural use pending development. Rotting vegetation produces methane, a greenhouse gas 20 times as potent as carbon dioxide.

: I think in general the idea to open up the riverside to enjoy the wildlife is a lovely idea, but to extend the carpark, introduce coffee stations etc to make it more commercialised will in effect defeat the object. Already we have more cars than the space in the carpark. Wouldn't it be a better idea to provide mini buses to take and fetch the people to and fro to Stratford, or lets say out of town therefore reducing the amount of cars, but increasing the amount of people

: I think the project sounds really interesting. I am quite concerned that the biodiversity/wildlife at this site will be jeopardised by overdevelopment. I appreciate that you have consultants on board to manage this aspect of the project, however, HS2 have environmental consultants who have approved the destruction of numerous wild habitats. It is hard to see "biodiversity preservation" and "economic benefits" sit comfortably together sometimes. If you can assure residents that wildlife can be protected then I'm sure a lot of the opposition will dissipate. I would love to see the children's play area have much more equipment that is tailored to children with physical disabilities and/or additional needs. The totem poles are a great start but more is needed to make this a truly SEN friendly space. As a parent of a child with additional needs, the Rec playground is not something to be replicated here. It's a wonderful space but presents challenges to the disabled community. My child often seeks a quiet space at the Rec so that they can decompress after the sensory overload of all the equipment and other kids. You have the chance to do something so much more accessible and unique here. I'd love to see an area of the children's play area such as a sensory garden that can act as a little bubble of calm within the play area. If the beauty and calm of nature can be harnessed for children to enjoy I think that could be really amazing. Best of luck with the project!

: I think this is a terrible idea. There is no need to expand the car park; quite how building a bigger carpark will be good for nature is lost on me 🤔♂. Why not leave it as it is, people enjoy the walk, and it is already a habitat for wildlife. You will not encourage people to use water taxis ffs how ridiculous. The park and ride was pretty much a failure so what makes you think this will be any different? You could have built a decent multi-story carpark on the old cattle market instead of allowing those hideous and crap flats that no ones even buying. Not that any of this matters really, the high street is dying as an incompetent Stratford council turn Stratford into a retirement town. Where's the nightlife and busking town I loved 15 years ago? You've really fucked it up and this is another waste of money.

: I think this project is a great idea. I personally would like it to be more focused on creating a beautiful natural space for walking and cycling. I'm not sure there need to be another car park by Fisherman's as the leisure centre and Bridgefoot are very close by. It would be an eyesore from the opposite side. I would also welcome development of the Lido area, this would be a great facility for both locals and tourists

: I would support this project as long as no buildings are included. It should remain an open area for wildlife and people alike. I would not like to see it become like the Waterfront, which is quite formal.

: I'm against an extension of urban sprawl and further parking spaces when the leisure centre, Rosebird and bridge foot parking Has plenty of spaces both pre and post COVID era

: It all sounds wonderful until you hear that not all ideas will be implemented straight away. As soon as you hear additional money will be needed to complete the work alarms bells ring. Where do they hope this money will come from. At this present time better access over Lucy's Mill bridge would be of greater use for locals and visitors. At the moment the walk from the fisherman's car park to town is really lovely and does not need any great improvement. There is plenty of wildlife to be seen and enjoy. Because of the lockdown the area has been well used. Enlarging the car park would be great but not sure about the rest of the plans.

: My comments are with reference to the Fisherman's car park area. Yes I am in favour of a nature trail and most definitely a cycle route into town. Bathing area and toilets sensible however I think that offering restaurant and event centre is foolish. You will drive business away from the high st/centre if you make it too attractive. People will not walk or taxi into town. Also the speed limit will need to be reduced to 30 miles if you are encouraging this amount of traffic. There has been some fatalities over the past few years. I suggest if you are building a 500 car park access and exit will need serious consideration.

1- SIGNIFICANT PERFORMANCE AREA FAUX PAS PLANNED One huge problem my son and I foresee from the outset, and others must surely have pointed this out, is the location of the new "event/performance space". Someone really should visit this spot as soon as possible and contrast the significant traffic noise there compared with where we suggest the site goes -which is at Point 35 on your published diagram (currently set aside for "picnic areas"). This new location is about as far as possible from the road and would be shielded by significant numbers of trees that are proposed throughout the whole portion of this site. It's by the river could that be exploited? PEDESTRIAN ARRIVAL PLEASE The idea that cars are to be the main method of arrival to it is poor (it has been sited at the very furthest end of the car park). Our view is that visitors to it should come by public transport and the more southerly location is half way between the new carpark, the existing leisure centre carpark and the bus terminals in Bridge Street. So we advocate walking here! UPDATE: BUT DO SET ASIDE PERFORMANCE SPACE If the view thinks of dropping the Performance Area altogether, because Stratford is deemed to have enough places already e.g. Swan Gardens, I disagree. All current locations, especially this latter, in Stratford are exceedingly public and Cadets, Guides, Scouts, Brownies etc need a more 'ad-hoc' location to just book on an occasional basis without it being so very visibly public so their applicationals will be seen as unsuitable. There are significant Child protection issues there. Even if not built from the outset land for a large performance area should be set aside and in particular heavy electrical cables buried nearby (even if not terminated and powered initially). Not to do so will financially and technically hamper a brilliant opportunity for future development. You'd be surprised how this could take off.

1. I love the idea of a bathing area and riverside beach. 2. I like the idea of the nature reserve and increasing access to nature for the community. 3. I like the idea of encouraging active transport, but this needs to be connected with the surrounding areas - making it easy to cycle into Stratford from up to 10 miles away. 4. I'm very worried about any disturbance to the precious habitats that are there. 5. I'm very worried about the increase in car parking at Fisherman's car park. The emphasis should be enhancing the lives of the local community, not necessarily attracting more visitors coming by car.

1000 people have signed the petition against this proposed development. Please listen to the citizens of Stratford and re-consider this inappropriate plan

A document describing a manicured, carefully sculpted fantasy park incorporating the current buzzwords, covering over the ultimate sterility of concrete car parks and swathes of tarmac paths. This plan echoes other grand schemes (cf. World Class Stratford) that spent hundreds of thousands of taxpayers' money, without achieving any tangible benefit to our community before being abandoned by Stratford on Avon District Council. In these uncertain times, two million pounds of taxpayers' money would be better spent on the overall infrastructure of the town, focusing on supporting a thriving local community of the residents and its businesses. If this is done, it will ensure this 'historic market town' will once again be a destination people will want to return to

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<p>A great idea to reintroduce activities that disappeared years ago. Re introducing green spaces is the only way to go.</p>
<p>A new cycle/scooter path would be amazing, Stratford only has the Greenway and the rest of town is terrifying to cycle around with children, let alone for those with disabilities, like my autistic son. A safe paddling/swimming area would be amazing too. Thank you</p>
<p>A place of nature does not need redevelopment. Building/ paving areas that flood is crazy. People enjoy the old bathing place for the simplicity. Perhaps a regular park and ride from the town to the bathing place would be better</p>
<p>Adding more paths and accessibility to this area would be a great asset. I would love to see the river more available for swimming, boating, and just being around.</p>
<p>Agree, decimating a large swathe of green space and thriving habitats to build more car parking when both the Park and Ride and Leisure Centre car parks are terminally underused is, frankly, criminal. Please re-think SDC and, by association, STT.</p>
<p>All lovely apart from the campsite idea you're really asking for trouble just don't get that idea</p>
<p>Although I don't visit this area regularly, like any area of natural beauty, rich in biodiversity, I would wish it to be left alone as much as possible, with carefully planned paths etc. for walking - possibly cycling - and enjoyment. There is a paucity of natural habitats in this country and although it is near the countryside, farmland is not a haven for animals. It is because of farmland and farming practices that many species are in such steep decline. There are plenty of places where play areas etc. could go further away from this beautiful spot. If it is to be developed in any way, please let it be for education and relaxation; for enjoying and learning about nature. Many more people than previously appreciate the natural world now, so please leave it to be enjoyed as an area of natural beauty.</p>
<p>An increase in the size of the car park and improved accessibility would be nice as it often suffers from overcrowding. But 500 new spaces is too much and in addition to the other changes such as the information point and cafe/restaurant, will destroy a lot of the existing green area. The changes I'd like to see would be expanding the existing green area and planting more trees, not making the space for wildlife smaller. The Riverside North area is already a green corridor, keeping some of the green space doesn't change the fact that this project will ultimately leave less room for plants and wildlife. I don't think this part of Stratford should be changed to attract tourists when there are so many facilities and attractions for tourists that already exist. I certainly don't think it is worth spending a £1.5 million grant on it when that money could be put to better use increasing the size of green areas in Stratford, or go towards helping more vulnerable members of the community who have suffered during the pandemic.</p>
<p>Analysis, (Legend Map) please correct "Alchester road" on the diagram as it shows the lack of scrutiny. Alcester road is the correct spelling. Other than this the design may work, hopefully the land opposite Lucy's mill can be purchased as this will be the key to your plan.</p>

And I quote....."The creation of a major new accessible public open space will deliver significant well-being benefits to both residents and visitors. The space could offer quality time in an outside natural environment and help deliver mental and physical health benefits to all. This area is a blank canvas for a special place that celebrates, nature, fitness, well-being and creativity."

1. It is already an accessible public open space delivering significant wellbeing benefits to visitors, but in harmony with a thriving array of flora and fauna

2. The area is NOT a 'blank canvas' but home to everything from deer, otters, hedgehogs, rabbits, muntjac, a multitude of bird species including woodpeckers, buzzards, kingfishers and, seasonally, cuckoos.

3. How is bulldozing an enormous swathe of these habitats to build a 500 space car park possibly going to improve biodiversity? This is particularly ill-conceived, especially since there is an enormous and barely used car park at the rear of the leisure centre?

4. Where is the analysis showing this development would have any tangible effect on helping to revitalise the town centre post-Covid?

The council and Town Trust have seriously misread the mood music of the town at a time when businesses need immediate assistance to help them survive. Cyril Bennis is absolutely correct, this is a monumental misuse of public money and a criminal decimation of a thriving eco-system. Please re-consider.

Any development to increase car parking is totally inappropriate! This is a beautiful haven for wildlife so close to the town. Please do not make it busier or destroy any existing natural habitat to introduce more facilities. There should be open consultation with all residents and a vote to decide if any changes should be introduced.

As a generational Stratfordian I am both angry and saddened by the over-development of what once was a beautiful little historic market town. The town has been over-developed without any consideration for the residents and with the focus entirely on the visitors. It is time to stop before Stratford becomes irreparably damaged through greed. If, as a Councillor, you vote for this destruction then you should hang your head in shame and resign. This is not just a town for the tourist but for the residents too and we have been perfectly happy with the current arrangements for a vast amount of time. For the love of God, PLEASE stop destroying this beautiful town.

As a permanent wheelchair user I have safely reservations about large numbers of e-scooters presumably using the same paths as myself

As a resident of Alveston I am very concerned about the impact of the development on flooding further upstream from Stratford resulting from flood management further downstream of Alveston.

We are supportive of this project and investment made in the Town Centre.

Aside from the damage to wildlife that would be caused by the proposed tenfold increase in the size of the Fisherman's car park, two other problems not addressed are the additional traffic congestion and safety risk that would be caused by hundreds of cars turning right onto Warwick Road in order to leave Stratford. Warwick Road is a busy road and an exodus of cars would lead to additional queuing both within the car park itself (causing pollution and inconvenience) and slow traffic on the main road needing to slow down due to cars pulling out. This in turn would lead to increased congestion along the main road. There would also be an increased risk of serious accidents with many more cars attempting to turn right onto a road with fast oncoming traffic. Additional traffic calming measures would become necessary, which would contribute to additional congestion. Using the leisure centre car park instead with a slip road would divert cars on the way into Stratford, and move them out of the town in a safe, steady and controlled way via the one-way system when they leave. Additionally, cars could and should be encouraged to use the park and ride, with better signage and a better service. Finally, public transport must be given much more consideration so that it is a more attractive option for visitors.

Besides being an unnecessary waste of money, the existing carpark entrance/exit onto the Warwick is in a dangerous position close to a bend in the road with very poor visibility, an increased parking allocation would only lead to an increase risk of a serious traffic accident. I feel that the present usage of the carpark is largely due to it being free of charge, if people want to drive to this facility they could easily park in the leisure centre carpark.

Brilliant and much needed project which can only have a positive effect on the town. 100% behind it.

Brilliant scheme, the best thing to come out of lockdown! A fantastic resource for locals and visitors, full of imaginative and creative improvements. Congratulations to all involved.

Broadly in agreement however, as a wild swimmer, I won't be using the swim channel, it's not long enough and I like to swim against the current

Can someone explain why the proposed road and car park at Fishermans car park has been conveniently missed off the plans please? Also, 1.5 million won't even cover the cost of the planning so where is the other funding coming from? Tony Jefferson has already gone on record stating the council has no money.

Concept plan appears ambitious for modest funding likely to be available, currently. That said, I'm in favour of spending to initially focus on nature trails & walkways on northern side, tidying up existing natural spaces; maybe "nature" link with Butterfly centre? Planting ideas could be drawn from Shakespeare's works to link with theatres & central riverside. Ideas such as "wild swimming" facilities sound novel but maybe a niche appeal? Any development in the north needs to incorporate flood-plain maintenance and use appropriate materials. Am not in favour of further car park expansion, whilst recognising it's a revenue driver; the A46/park& ride should be encouraged & trains. Warwick Road is not an arterial route as such. Plan to increase from 42-500 spaces is not an environment-friendly use of the designated land + consider traffic bottlenecks for drivers turning right to leave the area, requiring traffic signals or roundabout to manage at peak times. If further funds should become available after the initial input, some of the recreational ideas could be explored such as a maze; it might be worth piloting electric scooters, maybe learning from other towns outside of London who have successfully managed such schemes

Currently the Northern end of this area is literally a tip since all the wildlife has developed from a refuse dump. At the very least it needs some serious TLC to make it even remotely appealing for new visitors: more paths, toilets, signage etc. are urgently needed. It would certainly be a great benefit to encourage cars to park outside the town centre, especially as the park and ride system has palpably failed. In an urban area it is not acceptable to leave vast tracts of land overgrown or underused-there are already too many examples of this, e.g. in Stratford Town Centre, at the top of Shipston Road. It is time for change, to overrule the naysayers and to create a more pleasant and attractive town for both residents and visitors to enjoy now and in the future.

Cycle ways are good but need delineating from walkways

Dear SDC planners

I have read in detail your proposal for the development of the riverside area from Fisherman's Car Park to Lucy's Mill Bridge and I am contacting you as a long term town resident with a keen interest in wildlife and ecology to object in strong terms.

May I correct your initial statement that the area between the car park and the back of the leisure centre is 'a blank canvas'? Rather, it has been for centuries a rich and important habitat for a range of aquatic, bird, plant and insect species, it is a wild area which should be treasured and preserved; once lost these areas are gone for ever. Furthermore I believe this precious area should be regarded as part of, and incorporated into, the Welcombe Hills as an area of natural and historic importance to the town. Your plans to destroy this area, which you describe as 'shrubland' and replace it with '[extended] parking, toilets and an electric car charging hub' will result in its destruction and should be resisted. What you propose is certainly not 'enhancement' even though you apparently see a financial benefit in it.

This area, as you will know if you visit it frequently, as I do, is an important wetland which not only supports a range of wetland trees, flora, reptiles and plants but acts as a crucial soak for flood water. Your argument that flooding can be better managed by improved drainage or flood-management is entirely invalidated by your proposal to extend the car park and concrete over the soak, inevitably adding to flood risk. Flooding has an important positive impact on wildlife.

While I deplore your proposal to destroy the rich and diverse area which you call 'Riverside North' I applaud the fact that you propose improved foot, cycle, wheelchair and pushchair access along the river to Lucy's Mill Bridge and I strongly agree that paths and bridges should be widened along the whole length and back down via the theatre and church. The greatest priority in regards to the southern area is, as it has been for many years, essential improvements to the bridge at Lucy's Mill which is only useable for able-bodied pedestrians. This has to be remedied as a matter of urgency.

I would like to add that as someone with keen environmental concerns I urge the District Council to consider extending the notion of a 'green ribbon' or 'green corridor' southwards beside the river and along the greenway. This already includes riverside footpaths and wild areas, some of which are fully accessible to pedestrians, cyclists and wheelchairs. Crucially this area links the town with Stratford's only Site of Special Scientific Interest, an important and species-rich meadow which is full of wild flowers and butterflies in summer. My ambitious vision would be that Fisherman's Car Park could be linked by an enhanced green route all the way to the (thankfully now saved) woodland at Meon Vale. What a really wonderful and ambitious post-pandemic legacy that would be!



Dear Sir I am against this proposed project for the following reasons: Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and set against the backdrop that many retail businesses were already struggling, the priority at this time should be to invest in the Town Centre to retain existing businesses and attract new ones. Half of one side of Bridge Street is empty and other store closures including Debenhams are going to leave gaping holes. The Council and Town Trust should be focussed on this priority and it is not clear to me that this is the case. Where is the evidence that a "green corridor" will attract more visitors to the town? And are they the types of visitors that will spend money in the town? I suggest that on fine days Stratford gets sufficient tourists that use the existing green spaces already and that efforts should be focussed on attracting new groups of visitors that will come year round. As the strategy mooted is to move car parking from the Rec and Tramway footbridge to the fisherman's carpark which is further away from the town centre, it may deter it. I am not convinced that it is necessary to expand the Fisherman's carpark. Surely it is better in every respect to ensure that the Leisure Centre Car Park is fully utilised. In this respect I am in favour of the additional access to the Leisure Centre Carpark from the Warwick Road as this will reduce traffic on the gyratory. The idea that pedestrians and cyclists should be given priority over motor vehicles at the junction of the gyratory and the approach to the Clopton Bridge is ridiculous (item 43, Page 22). Traffic delays are bad enough with the current weight of traffic and three pedestrian crossings and I am strongly against this. A subway would have been a better option I am sceptical that river taxis are sensible. Other initiatives to incentivise car users to use Park and Ride facilities have been a failure, what makes you think this will succeed. Even if you think it is a good idea, what are the economics around having a fleet of taxis that would have no other use when there were no tourists to ferry. It also cannibalises the market of the longstanding leisure boat business on the river, which is in itself a tourist attraction. Some aspects of the concept do appeal to me. In terms of improving amenity value I see that improving Lucy's Mill Bridge is important. Having a separate swimming area by the Fisherman's carpark, but at this time I don't see that this should be a priority. Finally the estimated costs of the project through the whole lifecycle, and the burden on residents, should be made clear. It's fine to say that there is some money available from the LEP but where is the rest coming from?

Do not want to see destruction of natural habitats by development of area

Expand the car park if really necessary Do not charge for parking ..will put people off ..so no need for above ABSOLUTELY do not meddle with the existing glorious walk into town ..totally UNNECESSARY and a complete waste of money ..in these difficult financial times

Extend the car park, create a safe swimming area .BUT the river walk into town IS already a nature reserve..so LEAVE IT ALONE !!

Extremely disappointed not see a traffic link to Seven Meadows Road. The proposals do nothing to alleviate the huge problem of egress from the Recreation ground on busy days

First the consultation doc is really not very clear; I've read it several times over the last month and am still not entirely sure what the drawings mean. Second the response works pretty well as a binary yes or no with no room for shades of grey or specific comments. So they have to go in here. Swimming in the Avon? Really? Good luck with that. Some of the sketches seem like optimistic vanity projects. Raised treetop style walk ways? Really? Put simply it looks like opening up the northern bit of the riverside to join it through would be a good idea. It doesn't have to be gimmicky. It could be similar to the existing south and it would work well. I cycle a lot through Stratford. To be blunt it is incredibly dangerous. This is an opportunity to extend a cycle way (that means tarmac not a patch of mud which quickly becomes unusable) from north to south along the river. But in doing so attention really needs to be paid to how to get from the Evesham/Alcester/Birmingham Road end of town to the river without taking your life in your hands around the gyratory. And then the real pinch point: how to get across the river on a bike safely. If you could do this then the riverside project joins up; without it the riverside project is an isolated piece of work which is likely to create more problems than it solves

Fisherman' Car Park is prone to flooding; it isn't sensible to extend it as it could easily become unusable or even dangerous. The Leisure centre car park is underused. Why not use that instead? New entrances and exits could surely be made. Electric water-taxis! Are you serious? If your desire is to enhance the area's natural beauty and peace as well as encouraging wildlife you don't want extra traffic on the river - boats filled with noisy people. And where would they disembark. Rowing boats for hire would also attract many people (in case anyone has that in mind) There is already a children's playground on the Rec which is well used even in the winter. You certainly must not have one in the Northern stretch. Nor is there any need for more bridges or ferries to spoil the beautiful view of the river curving away to the South.

Fishermans car park shouldn't be extended. The traffic queues on Warwick Road can be extremely long, well past the current car park and trying to get out of the car park is dreadful, nobody lets you out. This would only get worse & the congestion would be at a standstill longer causing congestion whilst cars try to get out of the car park....There is the destruction of wildlife habitats which would not be acceptable either. The higher noise & fumes would cause air & noise pollution which again would be detrimental to the wildlife both on land & in the river. I think it is a bad idea & totally oppose it.

Fully supportive of this project, slight concerns about traffic exiting the expanded fisherman's car park onto the Warwick Rd, will some form of traffic management be introduced? Also I understood that the extension of the Rec to Seven Meadows Rd included additional parking with access from Seven Meadows Rd, I cannot see this on the concept landscape design.

Good Afternoon, I think this is a fantastic project but there are clearly concerns about its impact on the biodiversity of the area. There is a petition circling around that doesn't represent what I think you are trying to achieve in the area. Maybe you should try and put a board up in town to explain what your plans are for the area so that people can make their own decision on the matter with the correct information. I have spent a fair amount of time abroad and in the Netherlands they have a National Park which has safe swimming areas which in general combines the balance of tourism and nature effectively (see link

<https://www.holland.com/global/tourism/destinations/provinces/overijssel/national-park-weerribben-wieden.htm>). I visited Finland often which is famous for its Saunas! It would be great to integrate a sauna with the view of promoting health and wellbeing. Please see link of a terrace/ bar/ restaurant with incorporated sauna in Helsinki (<https://www.loylyhelsinki.fi/en/terraces/>). Could you incorporate this into the café/ restaurant? I think my only concern would be to preserve mostly the natural riverbanks and try and push the car park as far away from the riverfront as possible to avoid disturbing all areas of river frontage. Camping area is a good idea and maybe you could put some more outdoor table tennis tables in the park as they proved effective when rolled out in the town.

Great idea and something very worthwhile. But please reconsider the Fisherman's car park. Please look at ways of better using existing car parks rather than concreting over this important habitat. Please put nature and our precious environment at the heart of this proposal.

Great opportunity here to use zoning to create a excellent nature-connected experience for visitors and enhance the biodiversity of the corridor - more nature would enhance visits. Given that otters, kingfishers etc use this area, carefully planned quieter zones would give sensitive 'star species' the space they need. Great opportunity to increase nature diversity through restoration of the green corridor and connect visitors to wildlife by planting native shrubs etc around car parks...

Has a flood plain assessment been carried out? As it will be building on a flood plain, it will cause even more flooding to the area & affect local housing.

Hello, I do not support this development project. We have a number of areas, including parking facilities, which are not properly maintained or promoted. The leisure centre car park is very rarely full, and I have never once seen the park and ride busy, let alone full. I believe these funds would be better used promoting and improving access and use of current parking areas. The town has a huge amount of cafes, lovely park areas (including the one you plan to build on) which could be better maintained in terms of biodiversity and flood prevention. There are gallery spaces available in the town (arts centre) and an existing tourist information site which is severely neglected. I strongly suggest that the council heed the protests of local residents and focus on improving the amenities I have listed above before they destroy yet another area and further increase the flood risk in the town.

Hello, I feel that adding a bigger car park to the lido is a horrible idea. The place has a very special place for me as my dad used to take me there all the time when it was little and I still love to go there to walk the dog and love the wildness of it. There is so much wildlife there that I feel should not be disturbed. Do we really need another car park in Stratford.

Hello, me and my family have walked and swam on the nature reserve by the fisherman's car park for 25 years. I am really concerned for the wildlife in the area and would like to know how much of the space will be kept as nature reserve and what measures will be taken to ensure that the wildlife that thrives there is respected. Many thanks

Hi I am very concerned of the lack of visible notice for such a project to the residents of SUA. With a horrendous 2020 a vast number of residents are unaware of the project and not being given time to review and understand the proposals. Whilst I understand there were some consultations days, majority of residents are working and with family. This magnitude of proposal should be emailed out to all residents. As a local resident to the proposal I am very concerned as to the proposed creation of a large car park to the detriment of wildlife, biodiversity and the nuisance factor created with cars parked along the Warwick road as unsupervised individuals hang out at the river - there is already a noticeable increase in litter and noise

Hi, Many trees in Stratford are tagged. Why is this? Is there a listing of the numbers and tree variety?

I agree this area is neglected and in need of attention but this is entirely the wrong proposal. This is one of the few wild areas within Stratford and needs careful attention to preserve and protect it. I am in favour of WWL producing a proposal for its careful development as a wildlife site. Its links to the town and the recreation ground could be improved to expand its use but I am totally opposed to this proposed overdevelopment of the area which changes it from a wildlife area to one of general entertainment with an enormous and unnecessary carpark. If the wish is to keep traffic away from the town centre, I suggest a slip road from the Warwick Road into the underutilized Leisure Centre Car Park. Expansion of Fisherman's Car Park would undoubtedly require a roundabout on the Warwick Road further extending the urbanisation of Stratford. This proposal reminds me of the fiasco of the redevelopment of Bancroft Gardens where again too much public money chased the wrong proposal. Was nothing learnt from this.

I agree with any greening up - but not at the expense of any existing natural habitats. You MUST consult the wildlife trusts and rewild and plant trees wherever possible. I agree with enriching what you have but attracting more visitors by car is not sustainable.

I am a big fan of this project, as it offers opportunities to develop an asset, the river, both for the local community as well as the local wildlife. It must be done sympathetically though particularly with regard to any extension of the Fisherman's car park and the local floodplain. There are already naysayers and their legitimate concerns should be overtly addressed, with the benefits to humans and wildlife emphasised, to bring them onside.

I am a keen open water swimmer and would like to see facilities for this incorporated into the planning and not as a secondary activity behind watersports. Ideally an all day sectioned off area for swimming only.

I am a Stratford resident. I feel this consultation period should be extended as I have read the objections to this project and agree it will destroy the animal habitat and affect the natural beauty of this area. The project is too large. We need time to put more thought into a scheme that will enhance Stratford not negatively impact on an area that has evolved over many years
I am against disruption of the existing habitat and the waste of money at such a difficult time. Please improve the access for prams and disabled visitors, but do not use the River Avon flood plain for a vanity project
I am completely against all your proposals. The beauty of the current wild areas is precisely that: semi-wild in our increasingly concreted environments. More car parking is not required; you will be turning the town into one huge linked up car park. The abundant wildlife currently found in the area you propose to develop will be adversely affected. Stratford is increasingly going down market and these proposals will only serve to hasten its fall.
I am completely opposed to building a new car park at the Fisherman's - this is not needed. Use the existing car parking facilities at the leisure centre and encourage people to walk and cycle and enjoy nature at its best.
I am concerned that you are destroying a significant amount of "green space" in this proposal. I think it is a great idea to make more of the water areas, they would be fantastic attractions. However, reducing the green areas, does not in any way help to improve air quality.
I am definitely against any redevelopment of the land by the fisherman's carpark. This is one of the few areas of Stratford that has not been spoilt by over development. It is a space where people can relax and enjoy being at peace with nature. It does not warrant "improvement" with cafes, increased parking, increased pedestrian walkways. If people want cafes, toilets, man made walkways, there is plenty of that already in place by the rec and the theatres. There is a carpark that is hardly used barely 500 yards away at the leisure centre - there is no need for increased parking. In addition this area is a flood plane - just visit after any significant rainfall and see the flooding in the current carpark. Part of the site used to be a dump so who knows what chemicals could be released if work is carried out. The people of Stratford have not asked for this. It is another example of a way for the council to make money by charging for parking at the only free place in town. The area is already abundant with wildlife and any redevelopment will not be in the interests of the nature that is already there. You can not improve on nature's own beauty.
I am generally in favour, as long as things are carefully managed. There is a good opportunity to enhance biodiversity, whilst having boardwalks to allow access and manage peoples access. This is different to the Rec and should be kept wilder. If more parking is added, can there be the type of surface that allows water to drain, not solid tarmac.
I am incandescent about the plans for the riverside. For all the reasons environmentally other have put forward. Total waste of money and just unnecessary ruination of a natural spot.
I am totally opposed to the extension of the Fisherman's Car Park and the destruction of the natural habitat for wildlife. Your questionnaire has been designed so that respondents do not have the opportunity to raise their objections and concerns
I am very disappointed with the revised proposals for the Fisherman's car park area. Planting a few trees and using different building materials will NOT mitigate the calamitous effects of creating a huge car park in this important wildlife area. On a practical level, this area floods frequently and is not suitable for electric car charging and buildings. There is a perfectly suitable car park at the leisure centre, just 400 yards away. Please reconsider how this existing car park could be used as an anchor for the project, abandon the ill-conceived plan to extend the Fisherman's car park and protect the existing space by designating it a wildlife reserve that resident animals and humans can continue to enjoy harmoniously.
I am very much against the development of the Fisherman's area. The volume of traffic on Warwick Road makes it a much more dangerous road. The area around and adjacent to The Fisherman's area is

very much a wildlife and natural habitat that would be greatly disturbed with this part of the development.

I am very unhappy about the proposal to extend the Riverside North particularly as I am My fears are not just the amount of nature lost to the extension of the car park but also worried on a traffic management issue. During peak summertime we regularly have to queue in our cars a long time just to get back home and I believe extending the car park spaces in this area will only add to the traffic queueing and thus damage the very environment you are trying to protect with more with exhaust pollution. Also it is not safe from a road safety perspective with a high volume of cars turning right onto a 50mph road at the end of the day.

I believe the project as proposed is too heavy on planned development / change / construction. This is one of the few 'wild' areas easily accessible to Stratford residents...to tame it and convert it to manicured parkland would be to remove one more way of teaching our children about the natural world around us... If anything is to be done, make it light-touch - preserve the natural, untouched state across at least 50% of the area and the riverbank. Put in nature trails...or boardwalks above the floodplain, which could then be accessed all year. I would also note that any flood defences in this area will lead to a greater impact downstream...potentially requiring flood defences at the Bancroft, which will necessarily be unsightly and spoil the feel of Stratford's most enjoyable park. If anything is to be changed, it is to be water management, redirection and drainage only. Thank you.

I broadly support enhancing our riverside areas, with a focus on improving the pathways to enable more people - of all mobilities - to access them. I oppose the proposal to increase the scale of the Fishermen's car park however as this would impact negatively on wildlife, curtail biodiversity and adversely affect the existing benefits this area provides for Stratford residents and visitors. I think it is important that the town supports the health and wellbeing of it's residents and this is a facility that should be cherished and invested in as a green, biodiverse space.

I could write an essay as to my objections to your plan. since I was 2. The river is such a special place to me as when I struggle with my mental health I go for walks along it. The fisherman's car park is where me and my friends go to wild swim and row our boats. But it isn't just us, over the summer there were hundreds of families playing in the water and on the grass. We don't need all these fancy changes there, a toilet and water point would be nice, but that is all. I highly doubt any of you have ever swam in the water there but I have. Do you know how magical it is to be swimming alongside of a family of swans and signets? Your plans will destroy their habitats, and remove the natural beauty of the area, the peacefulness is what makes it special. Stratford district council has sold out on locals for years, in bids to get more tourists in. Please listen to your locals for once, and don't commercialise this area. I will fight these plans until you understand the importance of this area. There are photos from over 60 years ago of residents swimming in this area, I have listened to older residents tell me how they learnt to swim in the Old Bathing Place, you are selling out history for money. Shame on you.

I do not feel that this area needs to be developed or altered in any way. We do not need to destroy this beautiful natural habitat. The attraction of this area is that it is in its natural state and any alteration or so called improvement would be to its detriment. I like the rustic element to it and strongly object to the plans.

I do not support this project. It smells of development, primarily for economic purposes. The northern area in particular, currently is lovely, "wilding" at its best. All that will be lost as the heavy hand of superficial values falls across it. Overall, the language style of the project, has all the trademarks of pretence. Sorry, but that is my reply, because it will be a major loss to the environment. Thank you.

I don't agree with the destruction of the area and the effect it will have on our wildlife. We need to discourage cars from Stratford, not encourage by building yet more car parks. Stop covering everywhere with concrete and tarmac. We have lost 68% of our wildlife since 1959. This needs to stop, before it's too late 🐼😊

I find this development a useless spend of money. It comes across as a reckless way of showing off, by a council that should be taking more urgent needs more seriously. Another big carpark? Wow what a great addition to Stratford's many unused carparks. It is bad enough we have to suffer that awful wheel but now the council wants to turn the entire town into a circus! Electric bikes and scooters will end up, like in any other city they are introduced, at the bottom of the river. The 1.5million grant should be put towards helping the struggling town centre. What would be the use of another glorified park and ride when all that awaits a tourist is a bunch of closed shops and a failing high street.

I have a number concerns about the scheme. I see no good reason for extending Fishermans car park. The scheme will cover ever more green land with cars. We should be doing more to direct people to the Park & Ride on the A46. By doing so we keep cars out of Stratford and the immediate environs with benefits such as improved air quality. Overall I believe the scheme to be the wrong use of public funds. We need to direct our efforts/funds to radically improving the town centre itself. With recent shop closures Bridge St and others are now looking very unattractive to visitors. We should be looking at such ideas for keeping vehicles out of the town centre to make it more appealing to visitors.

I have been actively involved (and still am) in wildlife conservation in the Stratford area. Please don't try selling this proposed project as a plus for wildlife as it will only have a negative effect on what is already there. It is all about increasing traffic, visitors and car park revenue and nothing at all about increasing wildlife diversity and improving the area for both wildlife and a place where the local community can go for a quiet stress free walk and observe the natural world. In summary: look at this as an opportunity to enhance the area for wildlife for local people to enjoy, not a business opportunity

I have swam in the river at fisherman's before and didn't know the history. I did wonder after how the water is. So my question is do you know if the environment agency/Severn Trent know if the water is OK to swim in? When I go down the greenway I think I hear a drain from the sewage works into the river but that's probably downstream. Someone needs to see what's upstream. Also if swimming we're to start again maybe in the summer it would be busy so would there be a lifeguard? Many thanks.

I have various concerns and thoughts as a Stratford resident and would welcome the chance to input.

I have walked today on the land at the Fisherman's car park. It was impassable due to flooding which was over a foot in places some distance from the river. Have you any idea what you are proposing and the effects this "theme park" will have on the towns flood defences? Please please reconsider this "recipe for disaster"....unless you have a bottomless pit of money for the relentless maintenance you will have to perform as the water finds a way to submerge pathways, destroy electrical cables/wooden structures and the river Avon will leave a path of destruction as our climate warms up on a regular basis. Could I ask where these plans will provide jobs for our local community as there is no way any structure will survive on the flood plain? Parking wardens maybe? Find another way to boost our economy, think outside the box!!!

I like the idea of increased parking at fisherman's car park, perhaps on a park and ride basis with river boats providing the "ride" as part of parking costs. This would really encourage the use of the car park and alleviate the crippling traffic jams and resulting air quality issues.

I live on the Shipston rd which has been flooded in the past 25 yrs, although the new plans are exciting won't they affect flooding potential in my area, also and this is very important, what will happen to all the wild life and bio-diversity presently protected around the Fisherman's car park. Can we simply abandon our previous thinking on this subject which is very current! I don't see any thought going to the traffic on the Shipston rd which is truly dreadful and affects the bridge more than any other route! I would also like to see some effort going into encouraging interesting smaller traders such as you find in seaside resorts ( which would also encourage visitors big time ) by reducing rents, surely its better to have the shops up and running on a reduced rent than empty with no rent coming in ! I hope you will take my concerns seriously

I love the fact that at Fisherman's area is still semi wild. I fear a lot of your proposed plans would reduce the natural nature of the area. Increase boat traffic and generally make a natural area much more urban. Aside from tree planting and perhaps nature trails I would not want to see the area undergo radical change. We have precious little wild areas and so close to Stratford makes this unique. Have you given thought to wildlife needs and the ecosystem currently there.

I love the idea of reintroducing a safe natural swimming area within a "real" natural reserve and with walking paths to and around the town and the river. I totally support the desire to enhance, rejuvenate and add to the present natural environment that people can use in a respectful way. I am very suspicious of a project overdone where the natural environment it's not enough to please visitors and end up being a very commercial enterprise where nature will end up being spoiled for the ones who really value it. Cafes will be a nice service but they can be movable vans or sympathetic to the environment structures rather than a massive construction. Same thing with parking; parking is necessary but 500 spaces sounds too big. In my opinion the project is a great idea but it is very important to develop it with the right image so that the visitors who will use the area will respect it. And it is also important to have in place now a strong strategy of how to maintain it properly in the future.

I object to the project plans as they stand, in particular the northern section. I do not see how you can build a playground on a 50 year old dump, which could cause major environmental issues, and extend the car park on such an important flood plain rich in wetland habitats. I agree with the recommendations in the responses from WWT, Friends of the Earth and Climate Action. I would like all revised plans to be approved by them.

I object to the proposals and feel that this wild area of land should be retained as is, for the benefit of the wildlife which currently occupy it. I don't believe that a new car park should be built on the land as this will further destroy the wild nature of the area.

I object to the riverside plan, in particular the northern section which is inappropriate in a wetland nature reserve/flood plain/town dump. Whatever is done there must be simpler, ecological and totally respectful of nature. The consultants and planners must walk the site and educate themselves about the habitats they deleted at the stroke of a pen. We know there is not the budget for most of the 'ideas' the current plan shows, so why £30,000 was spent on it, and what a second or third plan will cost - goodness knows! The county park on the recreation ground has capacity for noisy and crowded entertainments, but this peaceful wildlife heaven cannot survive noise and heavy footfall. It must be improved sensitively, with expert guidance to attract a different kind of tourist - those who support places that protect nature and who choose to visit town's with green credentials. I trust future plans will be made transparent to local rate payers and be approved by RSPB, Friends of the Earth and the Environment Agency. I would like pathways and fencing to protect existing fragile habitats, improved access for all - including wheelchairs, better access for wild swimming, hides, benches and any buildings made of natural materials, as we will be encroaching on nature yet again. Finally, please listen to local residents who've signed the petition as well as those who've objected here, they are trying to protect this wild space with their hearts response, I do hope that still counts for something. Having lived in this town for 60 years where very few decisions are made for the benefit of locals, please let us keep this little piece of wild space, the nature on our doorstep that refreshes the soul and has kept many of us from madness this past year.

I object to the use of the term scrub land in relation to this space. It's a nature reserve, home to a lot of wildlife. Whilst I agree that toilets could be useful to stop people going in the bushes in summer I don't believe any further destruction of the nature reserve should be permitted. We are in desperate need of land for people to simply be allowed to use to walk or run or explore without having to pay for the pleasure. Every spring we hear the first cuckoos of the year on this land. I'm sure these ideas could be implemented elsewhere in the town, parts of which are looking pretty appalling, Greenhill street for example is so run down. Use the rec for the children's play area by extending what is already there. Please consider the impact on the inhabitants of the fisherman's car park area and the ethos of adventure without profit.

I regularly swim at the Old Bathing Place and chat to the dog walkers, fishing warden, swimmers and rowers. I love the countryside around here and suspect that if you create a big car park where people have to pay, they won't bother using it. At present it's v busy because it's free and people walk to Stratford to avoid parking charges. Don't destroy green space for a car park!
I strongly object to a car park at the fishermen's carpark. Do not disturb nature please. We have many car parks, why not make the park and ride work instead? Keep traffic out and let people walk more than 2 minutes. ... Its so sad how people believe they must park next to where they're going, especially in a town as congested as ours
I swim in the river at Fishermans car park on a weekly basis. While I understand how busy the car park can be in summer months I believe further parking at the location is a bad idea; - There is an under utilised car park at the leisure centre only a 5 minute stroll from Fishermans car park - advertise the leisure centre car park more as a place to park for access to the old bathing place. - Parking is free at the Fishermans car park which is one of the main reasons it get's busy, stop charges at the leisure centre car park instead to encourage people to park and walk instead. - Over the summer the amount of rubbish left by visitors was appalling, there is a lot of wildlife on the river and if numbers of people having picnics and leaving waste increases it will be damaging to the environment and wildlife - the scrub land next to the river between Fishermans car park and the leisure centre should be left wild for wildlife, fauna and flora to thrive - access from Warwick road can be dangerous already, increasing the number of visitors will add to the poor situation
I think developing the riverside between town and Fisherman's car park will destroy a nature reserve that so many people enjoy and I am totally against it. Why destroy something that works? However, I am not against development in the area at the far end of the rec and beyond Lucy's Mill and Seven Meadows Road. This section of the river is underutilised, particularly as families with prams and cyclists cannot easily access the pedestrian bridge. It's ripe for development and visitors using a car park there could either walk into town or use Waitrose's Park and Ride
I think it is great that something is being done with what is effectively an unloved wasteland. Things I'd like to see I particular is more structure to the area, firming up of the dangerous concrete and re-bar banks at the old bathing place, also I'd like it if some money could go to re-instating and improving the skate park and the old bmx track. Currently the land is worthless and not much use to anyone. The proposed plans are a vast improvement. Even a car park that side of town makes sense as it takes traffic off before it gets the the one way system by the leisure centre. Many thanks
I think that you should build a cycling facility for training and racing because Stratford cc currently train on a 400m oval circuit which doesn't develop core skills like cornering so when it come to races the riders are at a severe disadvantage. Also by creating a race track races for the West Midlands road racing Laurie can happen their and lots of people would come to Stratford and potentially buy food and souvenirs which would boost the local economy providing a return investment in the track. Thank you for reading this.
I think the ideas for developing the field south of the current park "rec" looks amazing, and I would welcome this, but I honestly don't see the need to do anything more to fishermen's car park, its not used enough now, and all that new development would be hit more regularly by flooding then if the developers do the southern part close to seven meadows.
I think there is plenty of car parking fir Stratford, one park is a walk away, this together with toilets, could be used by addicts etc. Keeping The Old Bathing Place natural as possible for the wildlife, scenery and cleanliness, that drawing more people here, wouldn't be workable.



I think this is a fantastic idea. The Riverside is a wonderful resource for locals and visitors and was used hugely for activity during the Lockdowns. I note the grant award but think there will need to be much additional money if this project is to be fully funded. I would imagine that the focus will have to be more limited. I would hugely vote for the access to the riverside (from the south of the river) be improved - it's just horrid having to cross the gyratory and all the sets of traffic lights. I fully support extending the pathways for walking (and cycling, if properly delineated). We have found them very narrow and there's a lot of green space (which can get very muddy in winter) that could be used. I do not think an outdoor "gym" will be used to a sufficient level to justify the cost: I've seen them all around the world in parks and gardens and no one ever seems to use them! Keen gym bunnies will hopefully use the Leisure Centre resources. I really do hope that this project, even in a more focussed/limited way, does go ahead.

I think this whole plan is horrendous. The area is beautiful and wild and deserves to be maintained as a local nature reserve. The resident wildlife will not appreciate more visitors. What is being proposed is a parody of nature, a theme park. This whole thing is putting profit before life and beauty. Oxford itself has become a theme park full of tourists. For goodness sake, wake up and grow up.

I think you should leave it wild and undeveloped. Stratford is already tourist driven with artery roads clogged up and an abundance of car parks. Focus on making a park and ride that works and leave green spaces. Thank you. If you ever walk down on foot, one of the arterial roads you will understand. It's loud and polluted, so traffic needs reducing and no more in town carpark please

I totally agree with the ideas and think this project would improve the standard of living for people in Stratford encouraging people to cycle and walk more. Children could also cycle to the schools safely without getting shouted at by the pedestrians. I would cycle into town much more as crossing Clopton bridge is too dangerous. I would be happy to volunteer with work outside, if needed. I only stumbled on this website by accident and maybe more information could be distributed to people living in Stratford, as it is the first time I have heard of this project.

I was born in Stratford and as a child I had many enjoyable days down by the basin. It didn't matter if you couldn't swim as there was plenty to do. I find there isn't much for children to do other than the play park. It would draw more locals as well as tourists bringing more revenue to the town which is badly needed.

I was delighted to read early reports of the proposed redevelopment of the land to the west of the Fisherman's car park, and the Recreation Ground. It seemed so in tune with current thinking. And had the potential to increase visitor numbers whilst also revitalising the town for more community focussed residents. In particular, the vision for the new area brought in by the purchase of the Onion Field set a fresh new tone for Stratford. Ponds. Community Orchard. Community Gardens. This talks to a whole new audience and contemporises the town. Very similar to Brockwell Park in Herne Hill, London and other community/tourist spaces around the country. I'm so disappointed at the changing tone and ideas for our wonderful open spaces. There is little mention of some of the fresh new ideas. It's been replaced by talk of cliches such as a Shakespeare Trail and an Art Trail (isn't our whole town already a Shakespeare Trail). Why not a wildlife or nature trail through the area which was known for being a wildlife haven? I do hope that some of the previous freshness and inclusivity can be re-introduced into these plans. Best regards

I'm in favour of improving both the south and north sides, but this proposal seems poorly thought through, especially in the wider Stratford context. There is already a huge amount of car parking in SuA, and we don't need more. We need schemes (and EV charging points etc) which utilise the existing park and ride to keep traffic down in the town, not taking green land for more tarmac. The areas don't particularly need attractions - and there is already space for this on the south side. Cycling is to be encouraged as much as possible, but these spaces are too small to have meaningful length trails, and what we need to do is encourage cycling in the town by managing traffic better rather than by encouraging people to drive to a new car park to go for a very short ride. There was a proposal for a proper cycle track for this area recently and this would be a welcome addition to the proposal (using existing car parking), since it's possible usage is very large. Any proposal should consider existing river users. New elective taxis sound nice but are not necessary for the distance and will just add traffic to a congested river. I'm all for progress and well managed ideas, but please try harder with this one. It will increase traffic, take green land for car parking, will impact biodiversity and flood resilience, and will not provide the sort of amenity SuA really needs.

I'm very concerned that a generally quite area currently used mainly by local residents, who in the summer are able to get away from crowds of tourists, will be a lost haven to the local community. Also, I can see little reason for extending the Fishermans' car park, when the current car park behind the Leisure Centre is rarely, if ever filled to capacity. The idea of providing cycle ways is a good one, however, my experience is that cyclists and pedestrians don't mix well, so if such an idea come to fruition, please keep them separate. Please also note that the former tip area, bordering to Leisure Centre car park, was used to tip various materials, some of which contained asbestos. I could provide more information on that if required. Can the District Council afford this proposed scheme, having announced various reasons for increasing parking charges, green bin charges and possibly higher Council Tax in April?

In general I support the scheme, however the additional parking will create additional traffic using Warwick Road. I believe better traffic management and reduction could be achieved by developing the Parkway park and ride with a dedicated bus lane to the town centre.

In my view it will certainly enhance the area. Make the car park larger for our important visitors to use and walk into town. Great idea....let's get it done. Resident since 1951.and know the area well.

In the past troubled year, more and more of us have come to realise how being in natural surroundings can help us to de-stress, to feel calmer, to be more hopeful that life constantly renews. So please leave this small oasis to the local wildlife; a place where older walkers can enjoy nature on the level without climbing up the Welcombe Hills, families with buggies and children a flat nature ramble, dogs with responsible owners, a woodland woofle, all close to central Stratford. By all means build a Centre and more Activities but on the Leisure Centre Car Park so that those who want peace can slip away onto quiet paths. The Bancroft and the Recreation Ground were too noisy and crowded for our daily dog walk last summer so I had to drive out of Stratford - more car journeys, more pollution. On a very practical note, the height of the Avon last week demonstrated the vulnerability of any structures built between the Fisherman's Car Park and the river but still allowed a most pleasant walk back into town

Interesting concept, but please do not go for cheap tackiness in order to drive up revenues for the District Council. This could all be seen as a commercial opportunity to boost council funds by having one more big pay and display car park! The northern section is already publicly accessed and used by large numbers of walkers. It provides an unspoilt area where deer can be regularly seen in the early morning don't go and spoil it!! Electric scooters - surely not! The council's record in this area is not praiseworthy, look at the eyesore of the wheel, the destruction of the flowering cherry trees fronting onto Bancroft Garden from Bridgefoot and the so called 'Community Woodland' planted when Trinity Mead was built, which is still fenced off denying public access 20 years later!! Stratford waits and watches with apprehension

Is the riverside project part of a designated local wildlife site? Why has there been no mention of this in the presentation?

It is a joke get people using park and ride.
It just beggars belief that you are considering destroying yet more of our environment. You need to consider our shrinking wildlife population, why destroy their habitat. I think we all need to step back from growth, growth, growth to sustainability. You only have to watch The Perfect Planet by David Attenborough to understand the seriousness that humans all face, if we continue to destroy our environment. We have already lost over 60% of our wildlife since 1970, so for this reason I do not see a case for this ridiculous project. I therefore totally object to this project being given the green light, due to the untold damage it will cause to the environment and the constant heavy traffic on the Warwick Road.
It's a good concept but my main reservation is the size of the Fisherman's car park; 500 is just too big. You make reference to another car park off Seven Meadows Road, where is this or have I missed something? What surface will the footpaths have?
It's a good start in my opinion. The cycle path infrastructure is missing (what's the point of talking about e-scooters / e-bikes if Stratford doesn't have a cyclist-sympathetic network?). We need to expand on what the Greenway has to offer to pedestrians, cyclists, dog walkers etc. Why not expand the targeted space into the Welcombe Hills? I find the connection between the riverside and the Welcombe hills challenging and I think it could be much improved. It would be really attractive to many if we could offer miles and miles of safe, healthy, scenic walking like for example in the Malvern Hills. Why not mention the Shakespeare's Way? It would offer visitors and locals more choice (many people aren't aware of the 146 mi walk to the London Globe Theatre). In summary, please focus on a good safe cycle infrastructure and stretch out the available spaces with physical pedestrian/cycling connections into the Welcombe Hills and Shakespeare's Way
Leave 'Riverside North' alone! Wildlife benefits best when we leave spaces alone & don't try to manage & landscape. Let's be honest - this area isn't 'under-utilised' it's just not monetised. It is already well used by locals, nothing more is needed. Please leave this area alone. Put the needs of local people and wildlife before tourism.
Leave the wild spaces to be wild. Why sanitize the area when it's perfectly accessible now? Visitors come to Stratford for the town centre. Leave the wild area for the locals!
Let's face facts - we have a climate and ecological emergency, the clock is ticking out and this is basically a CARPARK. Until we have shown we have transport carbon neutral and averted disaster building a new carpark is a crime against humanity and all life on earth. We need a proper eco-project to address the emergency. Preserve the nature reserve rather than concreting it over with a car park. Focus urgently on rewilding as a priority. Build infrastructure including bridges and cycle paths to Tiddington and Snitterfield. Build it into an eco-attraction that enriches local peoples live and generates local business but focussing on relocalisation and enhancing public transport for sustainable access not on encouraging more drivers. Very concerned resident and citizen
Lots of the ideas are great. Revitalising the river is crucial to the town. Electric charging his great, improving paths for access, etc. The landing at the fisherman's car park needs to be made safe too. But please do not pave over what is now wild land on a flood plain. Bad for nature, bad for environment and natural diversity, destroying what makes the place special in an unsustainable way. Putting expensive infrastructure in a location which floods would both be a good idea. Encourage use of the leisure centre car park, provide charging points, replace hard standing with a permeable surface and improve the natural pathways to the bathing place. By all means put in decent loos and food venues there - ideally mobile ones like the 30s style caravan at the RSC. Make it all environmental and sustainable - something Stratford can be proud of. Make us a landmark for doing things properly!
Love this plan - just please don't over develop it - please protect and highlight the beauty and make it accessible for more people to enjoy, but don't over build please!

The Riverside Vision I welcome the concept of a 'green corridor' along the river from Fisherman's Car Park to Lucy's Mill Bridge if it encourages residents and visitors to enjoy the natural beauty of Stratford BUT only if it doesn't impact the natural environment in any way. I'm also unconvinced by the economic benefits and would much rather funds are used to revitalise our town centre which is a sad and shabby mess at the moment. I don't believe that this project could be done without detracting from efforts to save the shopping and leisure opportunities in the town by using up precious management time and tax payers money.

Place Making Potential My opinion is that the 'blank canvas' should be left a blank canvas! We are blessed with outstanding natural beauty along the river and it should not be messed about with. By all means, improve accessibility by better signage and paths but no more than that.

Economic Benefits Any direct commercialisation of the riverside outside of the town centre would be a disaster to the spirit and style of the town. We live in a beautiful traditional market town and any development of the area must respect this, above all else. To generate economic benefits would best be done by revitalising the town's built environment instead and any indirect economic benefits from improving this green corridor should be considered a bonus.

Riverside North The Fisherman's car park is perfectly adequate as it is and should not be commercialised. We have an excellent swimming pool in the town as well as water sport opportunities on the river near Lucy's Bridge and there is no need to spoil the area around the car park to add to these. It is perfectly good enough for 'wild swimming' and in fact I'm sure most swimmers who use it wouldn't want it changed.

Riverside South The area around the Rec and the band stand is already developed to a significant degree and any further development would only be detrimental. The thought of 'picnic and barbecue areas, event and performance space and areas for children to play safely' is appalling and would spoil the natural beauty of the area. All that is needed is maintenance of the paths and replacement of the signage.

Accessibility For All By law, I assume footpaths should cater for wheelchair users etc so I would expect this in any case. Additional paths would be a benefit AS LONG AS they didn't impact the natural environment significantly i.e. with minimal use of manmade materials.

Caring For The environment Better maintenance of the Warwick Road Lands and improved access for walkers would be welcome. I don't think that cycling should be encouraged except for children with parents (and yes, I am a cyclist) as it would either endanger pedestrians or require a separate cycle lane that would be too intrusive and damaging to the environment.

Coming to the Recreation Ground As long as this childrens area was near the car parks and away from the river so it minimised the impact on the natural beauty and views along the river, that seems reasonable as we already have recreational facilities in place and this would be just an upgrade or extension to those.

Managing the Flood Plain Another reason to minimise the man-made impact to the riverside area. Apart from signs and paths there shouldn't be any other infrastructure along the river.

The Recreation Ground "This area could become the heart of Stratford's leisure, sports and recreational facilities."? It already is with the sports club, bandstand and open fields. Don't mess with it! Again, it just needs more care and attention being paid to it so that it presents the right image to visitors and residents.

Concept Landscape Design Too much detail to respond to here so I assume there will be an opportunity for a more detailed response in the near future.

electric Car charging Hub Absolutely not. These should be limited to existing built up areas such as the Leisure Center and other long term car parks.

Electric Bike and Scooter Hire NO NO NO. These would be a disaster and as well as being a hazard to pedestrians they do nothing to encourage people to WALK and exercise. If people want to do this, stick to the roads.

Park & Boat... There is a private (I assume) river taxi that goes up to the caravan park on Tiddington Road from Clopton Bridge and it this could be incorporated into it and extended to stop at the Leisure Centre and along the green corridor this seems like a good idea so people could park at the Leisure Centre and go up river by taxi and walk back or vice versa. (Best of all, they could walk both ways but I appreciate for older visitors this would be too challenging.

**Message Details:**

Message: I am a Stratford resident and have lived through many changes to the landscape in our town. This is an enormous project. I think the sheer size is part of the problem. For this reason I think we should extend the consultation period as residents, need more time to consider this project and its implications for our town and our lives. I think we should be reviewing, preserving and improving what we have, instead of creating a themed river experience. The site identified for development to the north and south of Fisherman's car park is an important area of natural beauty that is home to hundreds of birds and natural fauna and flora noted in the Warwickshire Wild Life Trust Environmental Assessment in December 2020. Of course we want to encourage tourism and rebuild after the pandemic, but unimaginative town planning has already robbed Stratford of its ability to appeal to all. Locals and tourists need to coexist and presently we have a town that just services the theatre. The theatre is our jewel. We love it and want to preserve it but Stratford should be supported to offer more. Our town has become one big eatery. We used to be a bustling town with independent shops and now we just service markets, hotels and eating houses because the rents have devastated the area meaning only the large chains can afford them. Although even that has not been enough to sustain the shopping area, where even large parts of the new shopping area lie vacant. We have ample parking in Stratford, admittedly some of this could be upgraded but why don't we also develop the park and ride which has never been properly used or promoted to date. Our town does not have the infrastructure to deal with the additional influx of people for this project unless we look at the town as well as the need to maintain and upgrade the areas identified for development in a more thoughtful way.

Message: Thank you for asking for the views of residents on the proposals for the riverside in Stratford upon Avon. We agree that the river is Stratford's natural asset and will play a key part in restoring Stratford's local economy when the pandemic has ended. We also agree that many people gain a great deal of benefit to their health and wellbeing by being able to enjoy it. River crossings We would support improvements to the riverside area that would result in better connectivity across the river. At present residents who live on the south side in the Loxley road/Tiddington area are faced with walking across a narrow walkway on a road bridge with HGVS driving past or a detour across a busy road to access the pedestrian Tramway bridge. During normal times and particularly in the summer this bridge can become exceptionally busy. It is also difficult to cycle with ease and safety across to town because bikes are not permitted to ride across the Tramway bridge and certainly for children in particular the road bridge is too busy to be safe. Secondly the bridge on the southern end of the river at Lucy's Mill fails to provide accessibility for all users whatever their needs. Improving the access of this for wheelchairs, pushchairs and cyclists would allow people to access not just a circular walk of the riverside but also link to the Greenway providing further opportunity to enjoy the outdoors. Southern riverside area (the Rec) We support the idea of more recreational space being incorporated into the Recreation ground; we would welcome public tennis courts. We also agree that incorporating access to parking from Seven Meadows road to the recreation ground would reduce the congestion around the Swan's Nest hotel. Northern riverside area Whilst we support the idea of improving pathways to explore more parts of this wild area of Stratford, we feel most strongly that this must be done in a sensitive way to support the ecology and biodiversity of the area – it should remain wild. We do not support the introduction of play areas or cafes. The idea surely is to encourage people to walk into town and enjoy one of the many cafes in the town. Secondly by introducing cafes and barbeque areas you will be increasing the amount of litter that is found in the area. In the summer months the issue of litter is a significant problem on the recreation ground after a busy weekend and we feel this problem would only increase if cafes and barbeques were introduced on the north side of the river. Certainly, a better solution to dealing with litter left by visitors to the riverside is needed. Parking We do not support the proposal to expand the Fisherman's car park to repurpose parking in Stratford town in the long term. The park and ride at the Rosebird centre was introduced and abandoned. If there is a commitment to encouraging tourists to the town to use a park and ride system it would be better to fully utilise the existing park and ride at Bishopton, reinstate the one at the Rosebird centre and perhaps introduce a site off the A46 close to Dobbies garden centre rather than encouraging people to descend on an area of the town that is supposed to be a wildlife area. Secondly having already had to deal with issues of anti-social behaviour at the site we are surprised that you wish to increase the potential for this, thirdly the site can be flooded by the river. We would suggest that exploring the option of an access road to the rear of the leisure centre car park is better than expanding the Fisherman's car park. Bathing Area It is interesting to see the old photos of people using the Fisherman's Car park area as a bathing area. However, times have changed since those photos were taken and we feel further information on how you intend to proceed with this should be made available. If the intention is to actively promote the area as a destination for swimming surely the river would have to comply with the Bathing Water regulations Act 2013? As we understand it there is currently only one river, the River Wharfe that has been designated a safe bathing river in the country. Presumably, you would intend to undertake a consultation exercise as part of a process to apply for the site to be a designated safe bathing water area. If awarded status we also presume that costs associated with monitoring water quality from May to September and providing a lifeguard have also been considered and could be met? Such a proposal to have a swimming area will undoubtedly attract many bathers but we believe appropriate measures should be taken to ensure that the water is safe for them to swim in.

Message: The River Avon is at the very heart of Stratford upon Avon. Its beauty and tranquillity is one of several reasons thousands of tourists visit the town each year walking from Lucy's Mill to The Marina, enjoying the river views of the church and theatre, boating, feeding the swans, ducks and geese. The stretch of river from The Marina to The Fishermen's car park is stunningly beautiful and equally popular but with tourists willing to walk into town and thousands of townspeople who enjoy the real countryside and scrubland on the town's outskirts. To change this stretch would be a crime against the environment. It is rich in fauna and flora. More than 25 varieties of bird can be seen in a stroll on any day. Otter, Roe deer, Muntjac, stoat and weasel, bats, and a wide variety of trees, plants and hedgerow provide colour and variety all year round. This rich biodiversity will be lost - along with the green lung on the edge of the town - if this area is developed. The biodiversity offered here is greater than the Welcombe Hills and Rowley Fields, areas the town has fought quite rightly to defend from development. Stratford people and many visitors already use this part of the river to fish, to 'wild' swim, to boat both rowing and canoe and to barbeque and picnic or walk dogs or just exercise - running and walking. It is particularly popular with older people because it is a little quieter than The Recreation Ground. This natural beauty will be lost forever. Most wildlife will disappear along with many nesting sites if this is developed and attracts thousands more tourists on electric bikes and scooters. The additional parking will do little to reduce traffic congestion into the town. Further consideration providing granular detail about the pros and cons - the 'new' jobs, an environmental audit and impact statement, the impact of increased light pollution, the impact on the riverbanks and river life with extra river taxis and an estimate of what extra revenue generated. How will you measure success and the impact on our town. This is a one-way road.

Message: - This project is too complicated and too ambitious for a £1.5m budget. I am concerned it is a disguised attempt to increase car parking at the Fisherman's Car Park which would remove one of the remaining free parking locations for local residents to use for recreational purposes. It is not a suitable location for tourists being too far from the town centre and forcing a current area of rural retreat into a necessary thoroughfare. If a circular walk were to be created in this location for those wishing to experience nature, then it could just as easily be accessed from the Leisure Centre end where there is existing parking. - I would support some improvement to the existing riverside path in Riverside North, possibly to include a cycle lane, and also the sensitive addition of a Nature Walk, possibly to create a circular route, providing in each case that it did not destroy the wild vegetation and current rural feel of the location. - The suggestion that Riverside North and South can be combined into a single green swathe is unrealistic because they are completely separated by the A3400/A422. These two areas should be treated separately. - There are far too many activities proposed for Riverside South. I would support improvements of the existing facilities, such as the hardwood timber playground, but I do not support losing existing open ground to further projects. The beauty of the 'Rec' is that it is an open space where people do not need to be regimented into footpaths and have freedom to roam.

Message: "Any revenue generated by car parking will be used to further enhance the area." I wouldn't bet on it. This scheme should be kicked into touch immediately. Why do we have to destroy areas of peace and quiet and wildlife havens for the sake of making money? More than enough destruction has already been carried out by the building of HR2. There are much more urgent projects that require enhancing in the town. Updating the Mill Bridge, repairing the shocking state of the footpaths in Old Town, Chestnut Walk in particular to name but two.

Message: 1. Please do not destroy the wilderness that is at Fisherman's car park at the North End. Re-wilding is to be encouraged, DE-wilding is not. This is home to so many creatures. 2. Investment should be aimed at protecting wildlife from the busy Warwick Rd (recently two otters and deer killed that I have witnessed), and allowing safe crossing corridors to the Welcombe hills. 3. Adequate car parking exists at the leisure centre - never full. Consider a new access road to this from opposite St Gregs church if you want to stop traffic in town. 4. In the South, for goodness sake do something about Lucy's Mill bridge. Its ongoing inaccessibility in this day and age is absolutely shameful. I suggest money is spent here, and not at the North end which already has an accessible tarmac path. 5. Facilities in the Rec could be improved. 6. Suggest the best for sustainability is to work WITH existing vegetation rather than against it as cheaper and more sustainable. Ripping it out and replanting is an expensive option and will lead to an ongoing expense of maintenance against the native vegetation. Why not work with the native vegetation.

Message: 1. We already have a riverside walk. 2. The idea of building a car park big enough to remedy the problems of the Warwick and Birmingham roads is just ludicrous. 3. Developing the North riverside means we will lose a peaceful and diverse natural area that we will never get back. Its a one-way street!

Message: 2- LAND ART OPPORTUNITY POORLY EXECUTED My son and I have visited the areas extensively. Our view is that the car park (03 on the published diagram), visitor centre (10), decking jetty (07), ferry terminal+concourse (09 & 33) should be pushed further North (taking land freed by the Move Of The Performance Area{1} ) and spread out slightly further for future developments -once the power cables are underground it will be obviously prohibitively expensive to move them so futureproof geography is vital. More space would be afforded the environmental areas and the land art (14). LAND ART - WORLDWIDE OPPORTUNITY This area really ought to be many times bigger -with even further large unused future expansion space. As well as permanent expositions why not have temporary plinths like those in Trafalgar Square? We feel that the public are crying out for public exhibitions of art. Too much of it is kept cooped up or only privately displayed (e.g. "Heroes & Villains Dorsington"). It is these that will make the headlines - so to underplay this facility is to miss free the publicity that cities like London, Liverpool, Glasgow, Bath, Plymouth, even Hull, cash in on all year round. These get attention round the world and we need to make up for visitor hesitations post-Brexit. SECURITY AGAINST VANDALISM In my previous capacity as we gained grants for outdoor works of original art and beautiful they were. However we found that security against ever active idiots was a big problem so this area should be: A) More adjacent to the Visitor Centre so that it can be sympathetically fenced off B) The area alarmed C) Under constant surveillance from cameras sited on the Visitor Centre building. If not you will not attract exhibitors who are proud of their work and need to trust that it is in good hands. Again a brilliant space giving brilliant opportunities for Stratford to be even better seen on the world map. Because of it's uniqueness it's here that travel advisor websites will focus their headlines.

Message: 500 spaces seems a lot especially if there is spare capacity at the leisure centre car park. I understand that it needs funding once built so parking charges are fair but don't charge at an undue high rate. I fail to understand how expanding g the carpark solves the issue of the dangerous right hand turn onto Warwick Road. However many spaces you have the turn is the same unless you use lights or a roundabout. Also what is to stop people still parking along the Warwick Road so as to avoid the carpark fees?



Message: A large increase in car park spaces and other facilities at the fisherman's car park, greater use of the river, for example river taxis, and large numbers of people in the area will not help biodiversity, it will have the opposite effect. Before increasing the parking it would a good idea to see what effect charging has on its use. Some toilets and limited refreshment availability might be welcomed by people who use the area for their daily walk and other activities. If swimming and paddle boarding are going to be encouraged where the old bathing place was then the demolition debris on the river bed will need clearing. The area could be improved for wildlife by a larger area of ponds creating a wetlands fed by a stream running through the site from the river, a managed wild flower meadow and some tree planting. To provide access during times of flooding would probably be too obtrusive and expensive. The appearance of the leisure centre car park which is under used could be improved (it looks bleak) and some land set aside to enlarge it in the future if required. Another road leading to the rear of the car park from Warwick Road (end of Warwick Crescent) might ease access and increase use. The recreation ground has seen a lot of development over the years and does not really need more than some upgrades to existing facilities. Essential improvements are needed though, the footpath from the dry arch to the river needs widening so that maintenance vehicles do not churn up the ground and the problems with the sewer which on occasion blows its covers and leaks raw sewage over the ground and into Rushbrook needs looking into and correcting. The footpath between Rushbrook and the mill bridge needs levelling to remove the dips which fill with rainwater which cannot escape into the river making it not a very good place to walk during persistent wet weather. The section between the recreation ground and Seven Meadows Road is speculative at the moment but again includes more car parking which I don't think is required. Just a short distance away is a large car park that is under used, had originally been the park and ride at Waitrose, more use of this could be made if the section of tramway between Seven Meadows Road and Clifford Lane was cleared, the tarmac path reinstated and then promoted as a pleasant short walk into town.

Message: A larger carpark would be beneficial. I and many others use the car park for access to the river to train in racing kayaks. This is a great facility and would be ruined by too much development. At present it encourages people to park out of town and walk in. I would not be adverse to a charge as long as I could obtain (pay for) a regular uses permit. It is a beautiful natural environment that would be ruined by over developing with "leisure facilities". These can be provided in the more formal riverside park in the town. Canoeists, wild swimmers, paddle boarders and rowers all use this area to launch and exercise. Over development will lead to over population of the area, ruining its enjoyment. Please keep it as natural as possible but with an enlarged car park to encourage waking and exercise in a natural environment.

Message: Additional Comments I would like to make some additional comments on the scheme. The first is that It would be useful to remind people that most of the area in question in Riverside North is not a natural environment. I spoke to (name redacted) and being embarrassed by the views towards the Warwick road as the Borough refuse wagons dumped their loads on the flood plain. This happened in a zone stretching from Bridgefoot Park immediately adjacent to Clopton Bridge, (no.42 on the plan, which was the site of the first livestock market), up to somewhere in the region of the maze, (no.26 on the plan). The limit can be discerned from the 3ft-4ft high bank or rise in ground level marking the limit in tipping. The area around the Fishermen's Car Park was landscaped and modified when it was used for decades as the town Bathing Place or Lido. There are important points to make here. 1. Almost all of the land in question has been subject to intervention and has not naturally evolved. Despite the heavy interventions by man in the past, it is evident from the vociferous voices against the scheme that wildlife has in fact returned and adapted to change. This suggests that the comparatively small scale interventions necessary for the scheme, while having some short term effects, will be easily accommodated by wildlife. 2. The fact that this is not a natural environment implies that one is not necessarily bound by the same constraints as those that apply to interventions in a truly natural Nature Reserve. 3. The protection of wildlife and it's habitats is commendable and has an appropriate place in law and in the public's sentiment, however, it should not in itself always have absolute priority. The benefits of opening this area to more people, making it easily accessible, and providing inspiration for engagement, leaning, and contemplation while enjoying nature are of greater benefit. 4. The scheme concerns a relatively small area in a long river valley full of similar but significantly more remote, untouched and important locations that are a haven to wildlife. A sense of scale and significance should be considered. The interventions in Riverside North would have a comparatively low impact that can be weighed against the apparent and stated benefits to the community. What is unique is the location of the scheme on the edge of the town that makes it such a valuable resource which can and should be made available to benefit residents and visitors to the town. The right balance between a gateway to the town to reduce congestion, an open and diverse landscape to escape the busy town centre, and a destination in itself with enough points of interest to promote extended dwell times is essential but attainable. The scheme has encouraged some negative comments from a few people who habitually or perhaps rarely frequent the area. Ways to engage further with the community to establish ownership of the scheme, both in terms of it's development and ideally it's operation and maintenance would be helpful to reduce dissent and improve outcomes.

Message: Although I am in favour of the plans in general I do have specific concerns. These are: 1] The plans for the large car park would seem totally at odds with developing and preserving the natural wildness of the area. Why couldn't people park in the leisure centre car park and simply walk back into the wildlife corridor? Maybe there could be a slip round from the Warwick road into the rear of the leisure centre car park. 2] The plan is in danger of sanitising the wildness of the area and turning it into a fun park with various amounts of revenue gathering features from snack stalls to ice cream sales gradually creeping in over the years. 3] More people would mean more litter. How would this be managed and structured into the plan? I think we could have some kind of Park/Nature Warden permanently employed to look after the site on a daily basis

Message: Although the idea of a green walk into town sounds persuasive, in reality for most of the year people will risk their lives crossing the road and take the quickest route to town along the Stratford/Warwick road pavement. This is just a smoke screen to build a big cheap-to-construct carpark on the outskirts at a massive cost to a unique wild area. Wildlife needs wilderness, not civic parks or farmers fields.

Message: An absolutely key part of this project must be accessibility at Lucy's Mill Bridge. It MUST be suitable for wheelchair users to cross at this point. This would open up a hugely important option for wheelchair users to be able to get from the Greenway all the way though the Recreation Ground, through to the town and beyond.

Message: Area is mainly undisturbed so nature can flourish - putting people into the area will disrupt nature hence I disagree with the proposal from fisherman's to the leisure centre. Not an area to develop no matter what you dress it up as

Message: As a resident of Stratford-upon-Avon and a regular user of the Fisherman's carpark I was saddened to hear of the proposals to redevelop the car park and the surrounding area. We love living here and enjoy the local amenities and visiting Stratford itself, but do feel that the town is largely already set up to cater for tourists and during busier periods can be largely unwelcoming for local people when using local shops, restaurants and other facilities. There are few places for local people to find peace and tranquillity, but the Fisherman's carpark and surrounding area do provide that little piece of nature and the walk into Stratford from the car park helps to balance out the often particularly hectic feel of the town once you reach the traffic lights and main street. There is a real sense of community in the area too and people using the footpath from the Fisherman's car park into town often say hello and sometimes even stop for a chat as there is a feeling that those using the car park are locals and those who appreciate that little piece of nature we are so fortunate to have. This is unfortunately so rare in other more built up areas now. Whilst I understand the need to support local infrastructure and manage such areas, the current plans feel very much like they have been designed for tourists and visitors with little consideration for those who actually live here and enjoy the area currently. The fact that the home page of this website mentions visitors four times but residents just twice is particularly telling. Local people already pay high Council Tax rates for the privilege of living in the area and being able to use the Fisherman's car park for free, together with a short, enjoyable walk into town, is a small benefit to get in return. We won't be interested in expensive river taxi's / paying for more car parking. If we wanted to do that, the leisure centre car park always has spaces and is also reasonably priced. We don't need more parking! Has anyone considered participatory budgeting? Actually asking the people what they want instead of drawing up plans and rolling out a leading survey to essentially support the changes. What we do need is an understanding from our local Councillors that the people of Stratford need their say. The click through survey on this website was particularly leading in its design and didn't even ask people what they liked about the current area – it seemed to purely focus on options presented for the improvements instead of asking people what they enjoyed at present. Yes working with the local wildlife trust to help manage the area would seem to be a good idea, but let's develop it as a nature reserve and encourage these species to thrive, instead of encouraging yet more 'Stratford sprawl' into an area which the locals value very highly to give them that peace, tranquillity, calm and community which is sadly lacking in so many places. We have it already – it works - please don't destroy it. My email is focused on the plans for the Fisherman's car park as I am aware this is the first area being considered. Elsewhere in the plan there are definitely merits for improving the existing play areas and equipment at the rec – improving current facilities.

Message: As residents of the town, we enjoy weekly walks along the Riverside (between Crown plaza and fisherman's car park). I am very concerned about plans to expand the car park. I agree more car parking spaces are needed but a capacity of 500 would be a disaster. Also, why do the plans include an area to expand the car park even further? It is a lovely area for walking and while it does need improvements, turning it into an access point to the town for shoppers will ruin it for all those who already enjoy the area for its seclusion and tranquillity. Local residents should have been consulted directly about this.

Message: As this land is part of the Avon flood plain, it should be left to act as nature intended

Message: At the risk of repeating myself I simply want to say this is a project that is not acceptable on so many levels. The more I learn about it the more opposed I become. Let us hope that what comes out of this will be a more careful management of the site that will benefit the wild life. To suggest that the parking area to be created could in any way help the congested streets of Stratford is laughable.

Message: Comments & Suggestions – Riverside Green Corridor SOA Riverside Green Corridor Scheme is an ill-conceived, inappropriate and deeply flawed concept with many contradictions – the wrong scheme in the wrong place. The funding of £1.5 m and the SDC contribution of £300,000 is public money, tax payer’s money, however it is highly questionable whether the investment would yield the manageable outputs promised and required. It is also questionable whether the cost of the Design Concept was money well spent - £30,000 to Node who are essentially urban planners who have produced a formulaic masterplan. Riverside North -The Lench Meadows LWS was commended, in the recent WWT commissioned report, for its importance as a richly biodiverse wildlife site with a mosaic of habitats. These meadows act as the “green lungs” of Stratford, a “jewel in the crown,” a much loved and valued wildlife and recreational area for residents year round and visitors, in season. The area already provides a readily accessible green corridor. The Scheme claims to protect, restore and enhance the rich biodiversity of these flood meadows but by its very nature would compromise these biodiverse wildlife habitats. The extensive ground clearance, construction works and proposed levels of intrusion through activities and trails into every area would devastate the site, its habitats, traumatise its flora and fauna and result in species loss. Furthermore, the flood implications for disrupting the function of these flood plains could be catastrophic for the town in these times of climate change. The proposal also mentions “better flood-management and restoring and improving drainage is an important part of the project.” These flood plains perform an important storage function in response to river volume and supports richly biodiverse habitats. Under the Land Drainage Act 1994, local authorities must have regard to biodiversity issues in all its land drainage issues. The plethora of facilities the concept promises to deliver, would leave no room for wildlife or tranquillity. An adventure playground on a landfill site would seem unwise. The water taxi traffic and quay , bathing place, beach and water sports to be encouraged would severely impact the River Avon in this area , its plant and animal life, including the otters which bred here in 2020. Currently wild swimming, canoeing and paddle boarding are very low key. The site is of an insufficient size to sustain the footfall and levels of activity which it would need to promote and represents commerciality at the expense of biodiversity. Further intrusion as the result of electric bike and scooter hire would be unwelcome and problematic. The SDC Proposal demonstrates a complete lack of understanding of these meadows, it states “ “space will be set out of a semi-formal basis as parkland “ and refers to the “ newly developed parkland “ which I would suggest belies a desire to transfer the urban sprawl of the Recreation Ground to the Northern Meadows .A recipe for disaster. The scheme fails to accord with the NERC biodiversity obligation to conserve biodiversity (NERC Act 2006 Section 40). The scheme also fails to respect the Neighbourhood Plan Policies NE1, NE2 & CLW3. I would suggest that the LWS be redesignated as a Local Nature Reserve in accordance with the WWT recommendation with an adequate budget to facilitate implementation of a management plan to achieve biodiversity enhancement. A Light touch approach – with extra provision of benches, bins, dog bins and sympathetic pathways as routes already exist over these lands. Stratford has already declared a Climate Emergency and creation of this LNR would further enhance Stratford’s Eco Credentials and create opportunities for ecological education with schools. Car Parking – up to 500 spaces on the flood plain (contravenes Neighbourhood Plan Policy CLW3 )-I have seen no data to support this need & car parks at Bridgefoot & Leisure Centre are both underused. For approximately 9 months of the year the Fisherman’s Car Park (50 spaces) is more than sufficient for local use. Suggested installation of EV charging infrastructure at this site on the flood plain is ludicrous. Congestion during Summer months would not be reduced by this scheme which aims to attract more car using visitors, thereby negating claims to improve air quality. I would suggest congestion and any additional parking requirement would be better alleviated through construction of a slip road from Warwick Road through to Leisure Centre Car Park thereby by-passing the gyratory. This would also be a more appropriate location for EV charging infrastructure and possibly even any Visitor Centre although, one already exists opposite The Leisure Centre. .The existing 50 space car park could become more environmentally friendly if re-surfaced more sympathetically and would fulfil its name if the Fishermen were allowed extra concessionary parking as they are often elderly living on limited

means. Similarly, the disabled fishing platform is much valued and used. The Riverside scheme is proposed to assist with the regeneration of an ailing town, to increase footfall but by virtue of its many facilities including cafes, restaurant and visitor centre and more would aim to retain visitors, thereby, acting as further competition for struggling cafes and restaurants in town. The town has been subject to a lack of regeneration initiatives for a number of years other than more markets, a further 20 more stalls proposed for Waterside Market. It is very much a ghost town and anything but the type of visitor experience which tourism expects or wants. It is expected that tourism will probably have a protracted recovery, possibly until 2024 /2025. I would suggest that monies would be better utilised to improve the Riverside Central and Riverside South as these areas currently hold little appeal for residents or visitors. Vision and imagination will be required - Independent traders and pop-up stores should be encouraged. A restored Farmer's Market for residents. Replacement of Lucy's Mill Bridge to facilitate disabled access and better pathways to the same end and more. Water Taxis – surely those monies would be better spent on providing funds/grants to existing operators of petrol driven boats in the Town to enable them to convert boats to become battery/electric powered - this would serve to reduce river pollution-(petrol rainbows regularly seen on water in busy areas) would improve air quality and promote greater tranquillity . Furthermore, it would show commitment to supporting local struggling businesses rather than setting up in competition. In conclusion, I would stress the importance of consultation for any further revised scheme. We undertook our own consultation using an online petition to gauge public opinion, the comments are enlightening and shall be submitted with signee list within this consultation period. The petition will continue to remain until the next Revised Scheme is revealed. THANK YOU.

Message: COMMENTS ON STRATFORD RIVERSIDE MASTERPLAN SUMMARY OF COMMENTS My comments may be summarised as:

- RIVERSIDE NORTH – Forget huge car park and ‘country park’, leave area mostly alone, support nature reserve proposals, make minor environmental improvements (e.g. update pathways), manage, maintain and enhance the natural environment better. Investigate new alternative in and out access into Leisure Centre Car Park direct from Warwick Road (and possibility of new low rise multi-storey car park to offset removal of carspaces from The Rec).
- RIVERSIDE CENTRAL – Focus major investment and environmental improvements around ‘The Boathouse’ and Swans Nest Lane.
- RIVERSIDE SOUTH – Support the removal of car parking from ‘The Rec’, update pathways, reduce the impact of flooding (subtly raise ground levels in affected places), focus investment and environmental improvements on the riverside itself (particularly the areas opposite the theatre and the weirs).

RIVERSIDE NORTH The proposal for a 500 space car park in this location is ridiculous. In terms of size:

- The land take required will be around 10,000 square metres ! - It will be about 8 times the size of the current Fisherman’s Car Park.
- It will be about the same size as the Leisure Centre Car Park (544 carspaces).
- The ‘Car Park Design Principles Diagram’ (Page 27) cannot be considered credible until actual carspaces and manoeuvrability are shown. I doubt the current layout will accommodate 500 carspaces.
- Where will visitors park when this car park is flooded? The car park/country park proposal fails to understand the impact on wildlife and the natural environment:
- The land is NOT derelict. It is a haven for wildlife. It is a quiet NATURAL green space enjoyed by local people (and within easy walking distance of many).
- Warwickshire County Council recently published a report examining the wildlife on the site, and concluded that it should be designated a LOCAL NATURE RESERVE. It says the site is: “A mosaic of habitats that is unusual in the county, particularly so close to a major town”. It notes a number of rare species. It states that the land needs to be better managed to protect natural habitats. It states the land could be made better use of as an educational resource, for local schools and colleges, to better inform our children about nature on their doorstep. Please do not waste this opportunity.
- No-one wants mazes or to bathe in a dirty lake. The car park/country park proposal is not sensitive to local people’s concerns/aspirations:
- The proposals completely ignore the Stratford-upon-Avon Neighbourhood Plan - Policy NE2 ‘River Avon Biodiversity Corridor’ which unequivocally states that “All development should aim to support and enhance the biodiversity value of the River Avon corridor and recognise the importance of river meadows in flood management.”
- Also “Stratford’s green spaces are one of the things local residents most like about the town.....Measures need to be taken to safeguard and enhance the Neighbourhood Area’s biodiversity and natural environment – in particular the River Avon corridor....”
- Local opinion as expressed through the long-in-preparation Neighbourhood Plan is a significant consideration and cannot be ignored. Follow this plan, and it will make decisions more democratic, and effective.

Alternative Car Park - I would like to see serious efforts put into (a) investigating whether additional carparking close to the town is in fact required, and if so (b) looking at an alternative carparking solution, which could be as follows:

- A new in and out access into the ‘back’ of the existing Leisure Centre Car Park direct from Warwick Road.
- The end house on Warwick Crescent would need to be ‘protected’ via a landscape buffer.
- The current access into the Leisure Centre Car Park to be downgraded to exit only.
- The above would remove huge numbers of cars currently clogging up the gyratory.
- If needed, the surface car park could be extended a touch to create a modest increase in carparking spaces.
- The provision of coach spaces should be reviewed. Do we have too many, or too little?
- Why are there lorry parking spaces located behind the leisure centre? They should be removed. They could be relocated to the northern park and ride site.
- I agree with removing carspaces from The Rec. In order to offset removal of these spaces, it may be possible to provide a new low rise multi-storey car park behind the leisure centre (on the current coach/lorry park). Height should probably be limited to the height of the sports hall. It would be away from the houses on Warwick Crescent. It should be designed to reduce the impact of any flooding.
- The provision of a new multi-storey car park should NOT be a stand-alone project, but inextricably linked to freeing up The Rec as part of an overall strategy for the RIVERSIDE. (In other words not simply more parking for shoppers).

RIVERSIDE CENTRAL - The riverside area around ‘The Boathouse’ offers a

massive opportunity for improved public realm. It is a highly visible part of our town. This area is currently scruffy, yet highly popular. - The existing Swans Nest Car Park (26 carspaces) should be removed entirely. - The area should be improved with high quality hard and soft landscaping. - The appearance of The Boathouse should be substantially improved (particularly the facades facing Swans Nest Lane). - There should be no access for tourist coaches into Swans Nest Lane. - Access for delivery lorries into Swans Nest Lane should be severely restricted. - The current road surface and design should be changed from vehicular priority (tarmac and kerbs) to a pedestrian and cycling friendly environment (block paving, low kerbs, and street trees). RIVERSIDE SOUTH - I support the removal of most of the carparking spaces from The Rec. - This on its own would deliver huge environmental benefits (particularly removal of congestion on Swans Nest Lane), and create opportunities for additional and beautiful park landscaping. - A short term win would be to return the unsatisfactory 'temporary' overflow car park back to residents as proper open green space or preferably planted with semi-mature trees to create an extension of the adjacent wooded area (which is very popular with dog walkers). - I think having a fun fair located slap bang in the middle of The Rec (even occasionally) cheapens the town, and exacerbates the congestion problems. - The area to the rear of the riverside café needs tidying up. - Rather than any grand schemes, I suggest many local residents would be very happy to see investment focused on general improvements within The Rec. - The pathways are certainly in need of updating. - There are currently three areas that flood (near the bandstand, the swampy area in the middle of the open green space, and the riverside opposite the weirs). The last one is probably the worst affected and impacts residents the most as it cuts off access via Lucy's Mill Bridge. Subtly raising the ground levels and re-grassing/re-paving in these affected places would be a very positive move. - I suggest investment is focused on the riverside itself (i.e. the riverside walk and in particular the areas opposite the theatre and the weirs). The public realm in these areas should be absolutely world class. - The chain ferry is greatly cherished, and could perhaps be better supported/advertised. - The 'Recreation Ground Extension' (owned by a third party) is low priority for me. I would not want to see any carparking provided, particularly on the higher part of the site. I also do not favour camping in this location.

Message: Comments on the proposed development of the Fisherman's Car Park The proposal is over-ambitious and one part of the proposed development (the car park at the Seven Meadows Road end of the of the Recreation Ground) depends on the purchase of land that is not in the ownership of either the Council or the Town Trust. The current benefits for mental health of undeveloped green space that is home to a wide diversity of plant and wild life have not been considered as a value in themselves; the area currently provides a peaceful environment with a quiet footpath beside the river to the town. The proposed 500-space car park will not only despoil a large area of land beside the river but it is in a flood plain; the increased incidence of extreme climate events as a consequence of climate change will make such a location prone to severe flooding. The pollution generated by 500 cars has not been taken into consideration. In addition, entry to the car park from the Warwick Road will entail considerable traffic management with the likely inclusion of road-widening to allow for through traffic to proceed into the town and traffic lights for traffic control. Although swimming in the river was popular in the nineteen thirties, it may not be safe at this time of increased water pollution. A lifeguard would be necessary to ensure water safety. The water taxis envisaged in the plan could also be a hazard for swimmers unless they were segregated. This implies an engineering solution. The increased water traffic will damage the peace and tranquillity of the area. One of the aims of this proposal is to "maximise the potential for economic recovery". In my view, this could be better achieved by reviving the centre of the town that now presents a sad picture of empty shops and the loss of small individual traders. Encouraging a variety of shopping opportunities and giving life to the centre of the town would achieve this aim more quickly and with less disruption than the redevelopment of a landscape that currently allows the co-existence of both wild life and humans.

Message: Comments re; Riverside North No evidence of need for extending car parking, which would result in devastation of flora and fauna and squeezing out of wildlife, plus decimation of carbon capturing plant life. Double yellow lines on the road outside the current car park would be an ample deterrent to roadside parkers on the rare occasion they are tempted. This element of the proposals should be dropped completely and a slip road from the Warwick Road into the rear of the underused Leisure Centre car park explored further. This would provide the added bonus of relieving congestion at the entrance to the gyratory. The Leisure Centre car park is a more appropriate and practical space for the erection of EV charging points. If the proposals are designed to increase footfall into the ailing town centre, building facilities designed to keep visitors at the Fisherman's car park area, e.g. cafe, visitor centre, would do the opposite and completely contradict the bid document. There is zero evidence that these proposals would serve to increase footfall into the town centre. Any facilities would inevitably only be seasonally used. Eco-friendly toilets may be an option for riverside visitors. The Warwickshire Wildlife Trust recommendation of redesignating the lands as a Local Nature Reserve should be accepted and instigated immediately. This should encompass a budget for, and proposal for, a management plan to aid biodiversity enhancement. Increased footfall needs careful management, and there is no need for designated new walking routes - least of all Shakespeare themed- as the network of footpaths already exists. Some walking route restriction may be necessary to allow unhindered breeding sites. Bird hides may be acceptable if sympathetically sited. No budget or planning has been made available for the legally required biodiversity offsetting that would inevitably result. Improve accessibility utilising a 'light touch' approach with eco-friendly materials on pathways etc. A circular walking route with the addition of a riverside cycle lane would be acceptable. Improved waterfront access for river users (swimmers, boaters etc) would be welcome. Improve a number of the bridges in the area to upgrade and enhance accessibility, particularly Lucy's Mill bridge. The area is extremely popular with fishermen and the plans barely pay them lip service. Given the use of the river, in a normal year, by pleasure boaters, sightseeing boats, kayakers, paddle boarders, caravan park electric river taxis etc, the addition of seasonal electric river taxis would constitute an unacceptable further addition for the currently thriving waterfowl, otters and smaller river mammals. They would inevitably be driven away by a substantial increase in river traffic. No call for the bathing pool. Another expensive folly. Electric bike or scooter hire is inadvisable. Facility would need to be made for them around town and, given the restrictive areas in which they would be used (if at all, given that similar schemes have failed in the past) they would constitute a danger to pedestrians across the zones. No designated picnic areas. They generate rubbish and damage, increasing maintenance costs. More benches and bins, including dedicated dog mess bins, would be welcome. No reading room or viewing tower. They would use up valuable biodiversity space to no end. Performance space a non-starter, wholly inappropriate site. No interference with current flood alleviation properties of the lower meadows. Please do NOT reconstitute these areas as sanitised 'parkland' as per the recreation ground. Concentrate family-orientated amenities at the southern end of the riverside- the Rec. Conclusion; the simple fact is that these proposals have been prepared with no realistic consideration of the flora and fauna at the site, or the nearby residents. If the promoters persist with the majority of these proposals they will further incur the wrath of the vast number of locals who have voiced their objections. Please reconsider and undertake a massive review, using the data that has become available since the project's inception, and if the grant cannot be spent wisely and with due deference to the wild nature of the land, it should not be accepted.

Message: Currently the fisherman's car park is free, once people have to pay they won't use it and they will travel into town and look for parking there. Why can't we make more use of the car park at the swimming pool. Parking in Stratford is expensive and this is what puts people off coming into town, a lot of people travel in by train and so the nature park on the river may be too far for people to walk to. I'm not sure the council really know what would be best for Stratford, why they can't just tidy up the riverside area and leave it as it is.



Message: Despite being around Stratford for over 15 years I've never walked from the town centre round to Warwick Road via the riverside - I didn't even know it was public land until reading this as it looks to be part of the hotel or moorings from the town centre. So better signage and promotion would be a good thing. Also could I put in a word for better/alternative foot and cycle crossing of the Avon? The Tramway is about the best we have at the moment as Lucy's Mill Bridge is inaccessible to many and the footway alongside the Clopton Bridge in the town centre is rather narrow, especially if you get two people approaching one another with prams/pushchairs/trolleys/wheelchairs/bikes/etc. Could there be another foot & cycle bridge put in on the North side to link Tiddington Road to the route from the moors/hotel to the Fisherman's carpark?

Message: Developing the Riverside South Area is a good idea. A focus needs to be with better access over the river at Lucy's Mill to create accessibility for all, for an interesting circular walk (Riverside then through Old Town) or linking up with the Greenway. Plenty of car parking space is already here and land to be adapted. Totally against the development of the North Riverside as stated. Improvement of the walkways from the town can be made with improved cycling facilities. The natural area needs retaining with a focus on promoting it as an area for wildlife status. We have plenty of car parks already and underused park and rides in the town. We do not need a further natural area and floodplain destroyed and the area "urbanised". Nature needs preserving not destroying. Encouraging more walking / cycling is key and good for the nation's health.

Message: Do we need yet ANOTHER carpark in Stratford Upon Avon!!! ☹️

Message: Don't like the idea at all! We have lost too much "wild" in Stratford over the last few years. Hedges ripped out, front gardens paved so car parking for an extra 450 in a "wild area" unlikely to help wildlife. Surely a nature reserve would be a better use of the area without the need for extra tarmac, swings tea rooms etc.

Message: Efforts to improve the environment, biodiversity, and wildlife are welcome. Allowing families to enjoy a relaxing waterside location, exercising, walking and playing are good. E-scooters, buggies and funfairs are completely incompatible and should have no place in this scheme

Message: Encouraging people to swim in river is like encouraging them to poison themselves

Message: Everything looks great apart from the proposal to build a larger car park at Fisherman's. Can't believe you would destroy the wildlife footprint in that area whilst a huge car park at the Leisure Centre remains semi occupied even at Stratford's busiest times

Message: Excellent idea to target visitors to park here and use the facilities to access the town. Stratford, with its river, is a lovely place to live which is one of the reasons we have so many visitors. Visitors don't only come for the Shakespeare link. The footpath from Fisherman's Car Park is at present very limited - one way to walk in and out and frequency overgrown. The area has developed from a tip and it still looks like a tip even with all the diversity that brings. Setting out different areas is a good idea so that more of the area can be accessed and to make it more pleasant to walk or cycle to the centre or even on a river ferry. Facilities at Fisherman's Car Park very much needed - even with only the limited car parking at present, visitors do not walk a mile meandering along the river to reach those facilities in town. The Park and Ride at Bishopton hasn't worked - because it's too easy to find parking either in the town centre or the Rec. We need traffic management and pedestrianisation to encourage visitors to park outside the town. This will make it more pleasant for not only we residents but also the visitors - less pollution. The plans must be moved forward - Stratford cannot stand still remaining in the past. Could the plans for the alternative pedestrian bridge be resurrected and brought into this plan? It is very much needed

Message: Expanding Riverside South to include areas up to Seven Meadows Road sounds like an excellent plan. Really against the Riverside North development. This area is currently a lovely waterside walk in a natural setting and a haven for wildlife and plants. Urbanising this area would in my opinion lessen the appeal of the area, not enhance it. We need to protect natural riverbank and it's ecosystem, not develop it further. The one thing I would agree with is installing public toilets at the Fishermen's Car Park for which would be beneficial for families using the river for swimming in the Summer. I do not agree the Car Park should be expanded- particular as this would involve further concreting over of the flood plain in a very high risk flood area

Message: Fantastic initiatives which will attract more people to Stratford, and which will increase dwell time.

Message: Fantastic project. Can't wait to see it materialise. I think it would be a great idea to ensure that the parks, especially around the Crowne Plaza entrance to the riverside north section is well lit with warm lights at night. This would be to ensure the entrance doesn't become a ghetto and still feels safe to walk through in the evening. Lighting up feature trees around this area would also be fantastic.

Message: Feedback on Riverside Plan Consultation from (name redacted) Jan 2021 Positives: There is a lot that the would like to support in the proposals. Stratford and Tiddington residents in particular children, need open space, and creating more parkland with pedestrian and cycle connections would be extremely good for the town and visitors. Covid has demonstrated that our local population, in particular children, need open space, and more car-free footpaths and cycle routes. Expanding the size of the Rec - hence expanding it's use as open space and protecting its habitat would be a good thing. Encouraging physical activity for swimmers and rowers, paddleboarders, and canoeists (who all already use the river anyway) would be a good thing, (but not adding more motorised boats).  
Negatives: The proposed areas Warwick Road Lands and the Rec are established flood plains and biodiverse species-rich environments. Putting up buildings, removing vegetation and enlarging tarmacked areas on flood plains will increase the risk of flooding to adjacent areas, including Stratford town centre, and the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. Climate change is already increasing our flood risk. It will also cause loss of habitat and wildlife loss. Turning the bathing area of the river into a "ferry-terminus" and adding fishing platforms will be detrimental to all other river-users especially swimmers. This "ferry-terminus" is purely to benefit day-tripper visitors (who won't use it anyway if they are planning to visit the town centre). The Warwick Road Lands is an important wildlife habitat and provides an irreplaceable biodiverse environment. This area should be adopted as a nature reserve and protected from any further development. The (redacted) does not support: • The proposal for extending the fisherman's car park and any development of the Warwick Roads Lands. • The plans for the Rec which will cause loss of green space for locals by expanding Sports Club's facilities which will benefit only their private members e.g. cricket and tennis clubs. Community gardens proposed will not offer open access, nor will campsites. So this will be a loss to the local population of their Rec. • Commercialisation of Stratford's Public Open Spaces. • Building on Stratford's Green Spaces. • Destruction of habitat with clearing of vegetation and trees, (as stated in the proposals). • Building yet more carparks There are already two carparks right next door to two of the proposed three carparks. The Warwick road carpark (earmarked to be turned into parking for 500 cars) is close to the large Leisure Centre carpark. The second car park suggested on the south-western end of the Rec, is within a few minute's walk of a large underused carpark, built a few years ago on a greenfield site, i.e. the Rosebird. This was a 'Park and Ride' Carpark. In addition Stratford already has a large 'Park and Ride' Carpark with a railway link at Stratford Parkway, off the Birmingham road, which is underutilised. The Future The (redacted) would be happy to support expanding the public areas of the Rec. The (name redacted) would be very happy to see swimming, and water sports such as paddle-boarding, canoeing and rowing encouraged, and access made easier. This would benefit the physical and mental health of the local population, especially during and after a Pandemic. The young of Stratford tend to be overlooked with Stratford's policy-making, and encouraging the use of the river for physical activity would benefit all. Cycle-paths, an enhanced play-ground, and more green

space, as well as safe river access would benefit us all as local residents, and especially our younger residents. The existing green spaces along the river must be preserved in their natural environment and be designated as a nature reserve. Stratford has a poor record on green policy issues, and this is a great opportunity to safeguard our riverside habitats for wildlife for the future. If this area is cleared as habitat how will our river wildlife including otters, and kingfishers survive? Future generations will not thank us for building over our green spaces.

Message: Focus should be placed on the walkability and cyclability of Stratford and this development, not on creating infrastructure that **\*\*encourages\*\*** vehicle transport. This change to a more socialised walking and cycling system is important for our mental, social, and physical well-being, and for the planet upon which our lives depend. Particularly when the Leisure Centre already has a large, under-utilised car park. There is no need for car parking to increase. What is the benefit of creating impermeable surfaces, to those living downstream of Fisherman's CP, when it floods?

Message: From dog walking I know the North part of the planned improvements very well. The best part is the area where 500 cars would just sit. What a waste of wildlife space while the Park and Ride stays nearly empty. Years ago, the city of Oxford found methods to encourage Park and Ride successfully. The Leisure Centre car park is also underused. The area between the Fisher Men's car park and the Leisure Centre has been greatly improved by widening and resurfacing the footpath along the river, but the rest is a neglected mess where the lucky wildlife can get on with living without much human presence. Flooding is obviously part of the problem, but with looming Climate Change any expensive improvement may be a waste of money in the long run. There must be serious soil poisoning in the large area where even grass struggles to grow. Before any planting can be considered that area needs to be cleared to quite a depth. The flood risk will need very specialist advice before planting suitable trees. The pretty pictures of flowerbeds will not survive the floods and will need a lot of expensive upkeep. My main problem with these plans is the idea of mixing walking and cycling, biodiversity and wildlife with masses of people crossing from the car park. Good quality benches would be wonderful for elderly walkers, we do not need jazzy contraptions, expensive and quickly dated. The old swimming area has been used brilliantly during any hot weather in the last few years, and nobody worried about lack of changing rooms. I think the South part of the suggestions are much better thought through, of course there are not the same problems. Please do not spoil a haven that has so much potential. All of us need more nature

Message: Fully support this project. The project really needs to get going ASAP to help revitalise the tourist town after COVID-19. Time is of the essence

Message: Generally this is a very good proposal. Important to make sure it facilitates nature as well

Message: Given the physical length of the sites, north and south of the river, consideration could be given to an accessible and entertaining form of public transport. The river taxi illustrated is potentially most attractive but would not be readily accessible for wheelchair users and could be affected by changing river conditions. The popular Garden Festival sites of the 1980s- Liverpool, Glasgow and Gateshead- were all served by temporary small gauge railways and their continental counterparts in parks in places like Stuttgart, Dresden and Vienna have continued in regular service for over 60 years. Other public parks in Britain have successful small gauge or miniature railways; those with track gauges up to 15ins have recognised practical utility and are fully accessible. Local examples run at Evesham and Blenheim Palace using steam and internal combustion trains with a heritage ethos. Local companies in Alcester and Coventry are currently developing ultra light rail transport following the pioneer Parry people mover systems. This technology with low impact tracks and vehicles can be readily given a heritage Trolley image like the historic Volks Electric Railway at Brighton. If the full scheme develops south of the river with the purchase of Onion Fields, the projected Seven Meadows car park could be usefully and better connected to the old Recreation zone by such a facility. Indeed such an enhancement of the current south bank within the Riverside proposals could be incorporated directly and extended southwards when and if the opportunity arises to develop the full project in the future.

Message: Great idea to an area that is under used, take pressure off the Bancroft (tourist scorched ), add to the promenade of Stratford , a park like St Nicholas-but not over formal

Message: Great idea to improve the area

Message: Has thought been given to create a wetland reserve instead? These attract many visitors while at the same time increasing biodiversity, sequestering additional carbon, and using sluice gates to divert flood waters thus lessening the impact of heavy rainfall along the Bancroft/Rec areas where it causes the most damage.

Message: Having viewed the overall site plan I would happily support the proposals for the proposed western extension up to Seven Meadows Road as it is currently a field with very little benefit to either the public or wildlife. It's development with ponds and trees directly adjacent to the recreation ground is a natural extension to the existing public area and has been anticipated by Stratfordians for decades. However, I would strongly object to development of the eastern end of the corridor between Fishermens car park and the Leisure centre. This area is currently quieter and a haven for wildlife which would be driven away if developed along the lines of the recreation ground. Whilst some improvements to the paths might be acceptable no new areas of grass should be created as this is of no benefit to wildlife and there is sufficient lawn on the existing recreation ground. Please don't spread the urban sprawl. By charging for fishermens car park at the same rate as the leisure centre more tourists would use the leisure centre car park which would reduce the demand at the Fishermens car park (meaning that the expansion of the car park could be reduced (saving money whilst also generating it)) and the shops and cafes in the town centre would benefit from increased trade (so they will be able to grow and prosper). If anything the area between the leisure centre and Fishermens car park should be enhanced for wildlife with marshes and reeds. Warwickshire Wildlife could probably produce a much more sustainable plan / design in this respect. We do not want another municipal park devoid of wildlife. I hope that you will consider my opinions when developing your plans. Thankyou.

Message: Having walked along Riverside North from Fishermans Carpark yesterday to see what its like now (I used to run along the footpath some years ago) I can see the potential and better management of the wilder part of it in conjunction with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust would definitely be beneficial. Before deciding whether a 500 space carpark is necessary at Fisherman's carpark I would like to know the figures relating to the Leisure Centre and Bridgeway Carparks - are they fully utilised at present? I would imagine that only free parking would encourage visitors to park there and walk. How many days a year is the congestion so bad that additional spaces are necessary? The concept is good but needs more work and more information provided.

Message: Hello there, I have written 4 pages which I have cut down to this. I care a lot about this subject and am a (redacted) , with a special interest in habitat design/management and in the use of horticulture in flood prevention, food security and general 'future-proofing' with green spaces. Additionally, the Riverside North area is very close to my heart and I have wanted for a number of years to write to the council about this area with a wish for it to be turned into a nature reserve and given vital conservation status, but admit I have been hesitant, waiting until I understood more myself about the ecological requirements of the area so that I might offer up solutions for how it could be improved. I value the project's aspirations, and respect/appreciate the engagement with the public over the exact nature of its developments. Sadly, we are at a point where I think when it comes to developments of any kind we must think in terms of deep time, or else we only build the dying relics of our haste. I don't like that this project gambles with one of the last footholds of important wildlife habitat remaining in Warwickshire. Our other key wildlife habitats, mostly managed by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, are sadly concerning me at the moment due to the increased footfall - I am seeing widening paths, compacted soils, and a lot of uncollected dog faeces, as well as hearing a lot of disruptive human noise. This is very concerning and of fatal consequence to the species that are already gripping tightly onto the prongs of their extinction, and our own. It is good that our society is beginning to engage more with the natural world, however it is with bitter irony & concern that it occurs in such a high concentration and in such small, diminished areas. It is frightening to be so on the brink, and I do not see that we are in a position to even contemplate putting wildlife habitats at any kind of risk in the coming decades, which I believe suggested developments do---specifically in the Riverside North / The Old Swimming Place area---by encouraging detrimental levels of foot traffic into an already encroached-upon green belt and making them prey to economic & hedonistic interests. These areas have long been in need of conservation status and a diversification of plant life, but require careful attention and protection rather than transforming into - forgive my brashness - a glorification project that, while forward-thinking, is based on the marriage of ideas & unknowns rather than facts of ecology and of human behaviour. It is the sort of project that ought to have been done half a century ago, perhaps, but now the land of Warwickshire is too diminished and we ought to take any funding and use it to dig up concreted areas and re-green areas of Stratford (and Warwickshire more broadly) that are currently barren, rather than poking our sticks at what green life remains. Additionally, the plan states the idea to promote The Old Swimming Place as an area for watersports, but it is already well-used as a watersports and wild swimming area, and on a hot day cannot cope with the capacity of visitors on the grass 'beach'. I think this area needs no additional sense of promotion, since it already struggles to accommodate the numbers of visitors it can sometimes receive. Boats already repeatedly come down into the area, usually spending 5 minutes disrupting the watersports activities each time as they turn around to go back towards town. I am not sure I see how a regular water taxi service will pair well with the existing use of this river space for watersports; the river simply isn't sufficiently sized in the spaces where it is safe enough to get into the water to safely [and pleasurably] accommodate all this activity. I do think the safety of the area can be improved by the addition of ladders from the existing 'beach' area into the water, since drowning is an existing threat to the many that use the space for this purpose. The Riverside South areas I agree could be enhanced by green facilities, such as the instalment of electric chargers and improving paths for the use of bikes (the paths are cycle-appropriate, but people don't expect cyclists to use these paths so thus don't give cyclists the space. I have persistently ceased to bother cycling

around Stratford because of the time it takes to get simply from one side of the Riverside park to access the Greenway on the other - and it is not pleasurable slow, but stressful because of how populated the journey). I have a great passion for education and think that any chance to promote wildlife education in the area, as well as education for locals over the history of the swimming place, is always a good thing (in this case through subtle signage, and potentially an unobtrusive 'information hut'), but I stress must not come at the cost of bringing about detrimental levels of visitors to this area that has been best kept as a local "secret" (I think) - not out of selfishness, but out of a desperate need to protect it from modern interference that too often brings about irreversible damage. In conclusion, I am against the project plans in their current form, but not against the ambition to make Stratford a greener place - on this latter point I am grateful for the opportunity for discussion, and hope that with this public engagement process some good ideas and wise actions will come to fruit about how we can better manage local land and improve green infrastructure. However I do finally stress the point that The Old Swimming Place, and the Riverside North area more particularly, is a valuable and precious gift that must receive only the most careful and tender attentions; I urge all involved to focus the powerful force of their energy away from it.

Message: Hello. This is great. But the FAQs link didn't work at 10.30pm tonight. Improved facilities at Fisherman's car park is brilliant. More trees and better cycle paths please.

Message: Here's my feedback on the proposed project. These are my personal views, not those of any organisation which I am affiliated. - It is an exciting opportunity to improve a substantial recreational area so close to the Town Centre. The project needs to balance the recreational needs of Stratford residents with those of visitors for access to the town. - Need to avoid the temptation to 'over improve' what is currently an almost natural environment. Hence no unnecessary buildings, concrete, tarmac, fences, signage, lighting should be installed. - Must pay attention to the needs of wildlife (animals, birds, plants, trees) already present on the site. Avoid introducing non-native or invasive or poisonous species. - Strongly opposed to a large car park at the northern end. I recognise that the existing car park is inadequate even for present use, but any extension needs to be designed for minimum impact. The entrance off the Warwick Road is also dangerous at present and will require substantial redesign to make it safe. - Need to integrate the plan with access via footpath to Rowley Fields and the Welcombe Hills. - The 3m (10ft) high embankment running along the centre of the Town Trust property divides the land into two distinct topographical areas: (1) the lower (closer to the river) is a natural flood plain and anything placed there is likely to be inundated from time to time; (2) the upper (nearer the road) is the result of landfill as a rubbish dump in the 1960s and 1970s, and there may still be emission of gases and toxic elements from decay of the rubbish below. - In general nothing should be done to diminish the efficacy of the existing flood plain for the river north of the town, otherwise the effects of flooding in the town are likely to be more severe. - The encouragement of river transport to and from the Bancroft will lead to an increase in boating, which may cause a deterioration in water quality for swimming and fishing. It is not clear that the proposed river swimming provision is feasible. - The paths should be usable by bicycles and horses (like bridleways), as well as pedestrians. Improving access may lead to undesirable (mis)use by trail bikes and 4x4 vehicles. Safety after dark will need to be considered, but proliferation of bright security lighting should be avoided. - How will maintenance of the site be ensured in future, including servicing of toilet blocks, litter picking, repairs, paths, consumables, security patrols, etc? - The project will provide a good opportunity to improve the appearance of the entrance into town along the Warwick Road, including gates, hedges, signage, etc. - At the southern end there is an urgent need to improve Lucy's Mill Bridge to make it more accessible for crossing the river.

Message: Hey, Just a few ideas/thoughts. I think it would be a great to incorporate a large but subtle grass amphitheatre somewhere in the project. (Potentially on the site of Wonder world fun fair/ temporary overflow car park) The River Festival attracts far too many people to be comfortably hosted in the bandstand area, a larger 'main stage' area would free the bandstand area up for the food and drink stalls and the bandstand could act as a second stage. I would also like to see a foot bridge further down the river, by the lock past Severn Meadows Bridge which would create a walking loop further down the Greenway and into Shottery. Is there evidence that people use the current gym apparatus? By design it relies on body weight for resistance and as such falls short of what gym goers need for a proper workout. A glass walled room or covered area in which yoga/personal trainers could host classes in a nature setting would be great. I believe that the whole design needs to feel like it has history and sits correctly within the Conservation Area, anything obnoxiously modern looking will clash with the history of the town and will distract from outdoorsiness of the area. Think Central Park not Center Parks.

Message: Hi there Much of the land these proposals refer to is currently a haven for wildlife, from otters to deer and birds, insects and butterflies. You call it a "blank canvass" but to the wildlife there already it is home, not a canvass for you to tear up as you please. There is no need to build a huge car park, especially with the leisure centre car park merely minutes away. Some of these plans are decent, it would be nice to make the area more accessible and to bring the nature to people, but you must not destroy the nature in the process - we are in a biodiversity crisis and we should be restoring and enhancing our wild spaces, not concreting over them. I hope you make this a central part of your plans or I fear you will find a lot of opposition. Best wishes, (name redacted)

Message: Hi there, I've just read through the proposal which no doubt would add much needed, all inclusive leisure space for all. Whilst I think that the plans could turn this rather uncared for area to a great asset for the town, it's residence and visitors alike, I'm very much surprised by the total lack of environmental consideration in the proposal put forward for public scrutiny. Where are the reports that assess impact on flora and fauna? Inclusive design must also take into account plant and animal habitat. This would be a great opportunity to design and create a space that improves diversity of plants and animal species by re-wilding with care and consideration to create a space that truly offers a feeling of walking in nature. Looking at the Rec today, I see a dead space. Designed for humans with little appreciation for much else. The designs proposed seem to not have much advanced in this regard which is awfully sad and a waste of an opportunity. It would be great if the designers could rethink the proposed plans and connect with experts in the field of nature preservation. What child and adult wouldn't love to see more wildlife on their outings. Let's encourage it and plan for the 21st century. What's been submitted is very much last century

Message: Hi! While I am in general support of managing the area for everyone, one of my main concerns is how this will affect the rowing club, who use the stretch of water on a daily basis. The area from the car park up to Tiddington is the only safe stretch for crews during the summer months, and collisions are always a major concern. I'd like to see more detail, and have some engagement from Stratford Council with the Rowing club, whose activities bring a lot to the riverside at stratfrod. Thanks (name redeacted)

Message: Hi, I don't know how much space I have here so I'll be brief. - Feels like this is a ploy to get a park and ride car park built on a floodplain. - Has the rowing club been formally consulted? Extra river traffic and users will negatively impact them, as will increased river levels from building on a floodplain. - Improving the paths and adding more, plus planting more trees is good. - More children's play areas and fitness equipment is good. - Toilets and a landing stage at Fisherman's Car Park is good

Message: Hi, I live in Stratford and my family and I park in the Fisherman's car park several times a week for a walk up to the bridge by the hotel and back. My son is disabled and this gives us a level, paved walk which can be used in all weathers. We also use the "back path" which goes from the car park up through the scrubland to the leisure centre car park. Although traffic noise is always there, it is generally a peaceful walk which we have enjoyed for a number of years now. Recent improvements to the car park with marked spaces have made parking there a less stressful experience. I would like to confine my comments to the plans for the northern section of the project, and they are as follows: The initial key opportunities are as follows: Riverside North • Create new 500 space car park to intercept traffic along Warwick Road I oppose this on a number of grounds: 1 It is monstrously out of scale and inappropriate and tarmac over land which, whilst not cultivated, will surely be a wildlife haven for local flora and fauna. 2 This will create a lot of traffic movement in what was previously an area where people could walk in nature. 3 I "assume" this will become a pay and display car park, which will turn what was a free, "town secret" area into one residents have to pay for year-round. In short it will turn a pleasant riverside area into a hideous car park, which might be great for an urban train station or a supermarket but is completely unacceptable for a semi-rural flood plain area. I would not be averse to a small (i.e. 50-100% increase in area) expansion but 500 spaces is nightmarish. Please change this and keep it FREE! • Create modal shift by encouraging people to park and walk, park and cycle I appreciate the objective but creating a hideous expanse of tarmac in a wildlife area is the wrong way to go about it. • Provide new café/ restaurant/ information point Not necessary. Only necessary if the intention is to attract thousands of people to this area to "park and walk". I am against this in principle and in design. • Create mosaic of habitats to improve biodiversity There are large areas of scrubland between the car park and town. PLEASE LEAVE THEM ALONE! I do not support any plan which will landscape large areas of existing wild nature with some token "wildlife areas". The whole plain there is a wildlife area, we do not need another "urban park". • Create country park to provide a greater range of facilities and activities for all I oppose this for all the reasons laid out above. Please leave it alone. Make it a local nature reserve. Allow a bit more parking to alleviate pressure at weekends and in the summer but do not desecrate this area. Do not make it a sculpted environment where people must pay to enjoy it. Leave it free to all. • Creation of river taxi point I don't have a problem with this, as long as it is appropriate, but somehow I think it is all of a piece of "monetising" the area into a "leisure opportunity" for visitors which will make the experience of town dwellers more expensive and more plastic. • Creation of safe bathing area I don't have any issues with this in principle as it has been a traditional bathing point for a long time. But what will it be like when there are 500 cars parked up with the consequential increase in usage? • Creation of wider footpaths and circular routes for walking, running and cycling I don't have any problems with this in principle. A footpath across the scrubland to the leisure centre would be fine by me as long as it didn't lead to massive amounts of this wildlife area being decimated in the process. In conclusion, this is an area with relatively small levels of foot traffic which are due to the size of the car park and the fact it is a bit of a "town secret" as far as being a route into town "through nature" is concerned. This plan seems to want to change the character of this place to make it an unrecognisable "leisure attraction". Please do not do this. Leave it as a wildlife area to be (largely) enjoyed by the people of the town. Please do not monetise this area. Please do NOT build a 500 space car park! (name redacted)

Message: Hi, I think this is a great project. Personally I would like to see some part of the land used for outdoor activities such as Segway tours, climbing, tree tops walks like go ape style, zip lines and a bmx track. These additions will help encourage outdoor play for families with children from younger ones to teenagers. Thanks (name redacted)



Message: Hi, We're concerned that this is going to push out the locals. We live in Snitterfield and already find it difficult to get there and then to park but it's not safe to cycle and there's no public transport to get there. We'd love to see a better cycle network linking this to the local villages, like at the Greenway, and a locals car park pass so those of us using it daily aren't priced out. It's already really busy in nice weather with people from a long way away and myself. My husband and I use it probably twice a day year round for swimming, kayaking, running, and walking with the pushchair, so not being able to use it would be a wrench. (name redacted)

Message: Hi. I'm a bit late getting this in (!) but as a long term Stratford resident (name redacted) , the whole area is very important to me. More so as a designer, with a strong interest in urban environments. This is a great project and I would like to know more, and possibly even have some involvement. Plans look very exciting, I would only add a new bridge from one side of the river to the other. Lucy's Mill is no good at all, and that only leaves the very over used tramway bridge. Please get in touch. I'd very much like to add to this input.

Message: I agree with keeping the pathways clear and safe for users, of which there are already many, and add more bins (plus empty the ones we already have on a regular basis?).... But as for encroaching on the already amazing wildlife habitat, NO..... It's doing just fine without more attention from mankind... We don't need more paths thought their habitat, just slow down and look around you... you will see many things

Message: I already use this 'proposed' green corridor regularly! For me an absolute priority is to protect and improve the fragile biodiversity of the Northern riverside. This should be turned into a Local Nature Reserve which would not only benefit the amazing flora and fauna, but also reduce flooding in the town by restoring areas of flood meadow. It could be registered as a Biodiversity Offsetting Site to bring in funds for on-going conservation management. Encouraging lots of people into the area could be detrimental to nature, so I strongly oppose enlarging Fisherman's car park. We already have a large under-used carpark in Bishopton. In the Southern area I would love a children's adventure playground, a cycle-friendly bridge at Lucy's Mill, and community orchards/allotments. Perhaps we could have an eco-friendly visitor's centre, promoting the natural environment and pesticide-free gardening and farming. Any cycle routes should not be at the expense of the biodiversity in the Northern area. They should be more ambitious to provide safe cycling to Tiddington, Charlecote, Snitterfield and even Wilmcote! Cycling in the Southern area does sometimes conflict with needs of pedestrians. Cyclists need designated cycle tracks to avoid this! We must avoid yet more building/carparks on green areas in Stratford and instead have a green recovery

Message: I am a regular swimmer, paddle boarder and walker here. I have concerns about the merit of additional parking when there is a large, often only partially full car park at the leisure centre. By improving the connectivity with footpaths and making it the only place to park you could encourage visitors to get out of their cars and walk along the riverside. There is no need to lose valuable wildlife habitat for this purpose. Rather than concentrate visitors in just a few places why not have lots of stopping points along the river for visitors to enjoy. Re wild Fisherman's car park if need be. It would be great to build on the existing leisure activity use at the old bathing place. Keep things attractively simple rather than over engineered. Create a place where many uses can co-exist (as they do currently) and don't make it all about the car. During lock down it has become a much valued resource, please don't spoil it with excessive car park, coffee shop and excessive toilet facilities, bare minimum is sufficient. This is such a great opportunity. The current access back onto the A46 From fisherman's car park is quite dangerous, please ensure speed limit is reduced at this point in both directions. Thank you

Message: I am afraid that an area of natural beauty will be ruined. It seems quite illogical to construct a car park for 500 cars on a known flood plain. It is quite all right to back off from an idea when it is discovered that wildlife will be harmed

Message: I am an open water swim coach and happy to be available for consultation on open water swimming

Message: I am concerned about damage to the wild nature of the riverside north area. I think it could be tidied up a bit and made more accessible and that areas of it could be laid to lawn for picnics, play, etc but I think a substantial amount could be kept as a managed wildlife area. I don't agree with extending the car park and losing the natural space. The leisure centre car park is only full on peak summer days and bank holidays and much of it is a lorry/bus park that is seldom full. I think more space could be given to cars and there should be good access to encourage people onto the new parkland area. We do not need more out of town parking in Stratford. The park & ride and Rosebird car parks are not properly utilised as it is.

Message: I am concerned about the detrimental effect the scheme would have on the established wildlife

Message: I am concerned that another bridge will be built over the Avon where, it looks like on your design, the Ferry crosses the river. Hopefully I am mistaken. I am also concerned that there will be a large scale car park created at the south end of the Rec, accessed from Seven Meadows Rd. On your design it looks like there are two roundabouts within this area. Are these the parking areas? If so how large are they? How many cars would park there? Would there be road access to these areas from the Dry Arch on Shipston Rd? Or are these "roundabouts" just roundabouts serving a massive car park in this area. You are showing planting and green areas along the Tramway edge shielding the car parking roundabout areas. Is this accurate information? I am opposed to a car park at this southern end of the Rec.

Message: I am concerned that this could become a white elephant. I can't see how enlarging the Fisherman's Car Park is beneficial to residents. We would definitely need many electric charging points to encourage greener economy. You mention boosting the economy along the spine, I can imagine lots of lovely little coffee vans, but we would need to ensure that there were very adequate rubbish bins and removal as well as public toilets. Are the leisure centre and Crowne Plaza Hotel involved in this project? I think it would be lovely to link this spine with the existing Greenway and most definitely a new footbridge by Lucy's Mill as presently you have to carry pushchairs and bikes up the steps. this is an exciting project, but the area is currently flooded, has this been taken into consideration along with the very polluted nature of the river over the last 100 years. People swimming or falling in the river nowadays may have to have a stomach pump!!

Message: I am definitely opposed to extending the fisherman's car park and destroying the wilderness area between the car park and town. I think any money used would be better spent supporting shops and shoppers in the town

Message: I am fully supportive of improvements to our environment that you propose, but cannot accept that this towns current infrastructure can cope with yet more visitors. I suspect that most visitors to the REC spend little money in the town so serve as nothing more than pollution, litter and congested roads. Is this another method of just increasing the parking revenue gained by the council and nothing to do with improving the life of people that actually live in the town. Why not spend the money on dropping speed limits in and around the town, road building (not that ridiculous flyover on the racecourse) and improving the environment? Whilst your proposals look attractive, will they not just increase congestion and pollution. Do something about speeding, congestion and noise pollution first please. I also fear that lack of policing will lead to a significant amount of anti-social behaviour in these areas.

Message: I am generally in favour of this exciting development. The scrubland between the leisure centre and the Fisherman's Car Park is crying out for some sensitive development but it shouldn't be too clean and tidy - we see deer there and other wildlife and we don't want them scared away. We are concerned about extending Fisherman's car park - it needs to be in the scrubland further away from the town if anywhere. And if you charge to park there, or charge too much, motorists will just ignore it and drive on into town, which is precisely what you don't want. In many ways it would be better to have bigger car parks off Seven Meadows Road and Shipston Road to serve the southern end of the development. Has there been any consideration for adding some flood defences while making this development happen? It's no good encouraging people to walk along the Rec if it is flooded as it was on Christmas Day. But generally speaking, I approve of the plans.

Message: I am in favour of improving access to this wonderful area but not at the expense of the wildlife and fauna. So I would like to see more details of how it will be developed. I am also very concerned about extending the car park at Fisherman's Wharf. This could cause all sorts of problems such as litter, noise, pollution and would 'commercialise' this part of the river. I think it would also cause traffic congestion on the Warwick road with an increase in accidents. Is it possible to have a car park away from the river?

Message: I am opposed to this scheme which will destroy an important wildlife site and ruin the enjoyment current users have. There is no need to enlarge the fisherman's car park which is busy because it is free. The Leisure Centre and two park and rides are empty due to the charging. The facilities proposed, cafe visitor centre etc will provide something we already have in town and if flooding is diverted it will impact elsewhere, the homes on the opposite bank and riverside in town. The riverbank by the Fisherman's car park is popular with anglers, mostly elderly, as it offers easy access safe flat bank and even a platform for disabled anglers. The taxi and watersport jetties will end that, and only two places will be left for anglers on your map.

Message: I am strongly opposed to the extension of the Fisherman's car park as this will encroach on and destroy an area rich in biodiversity. It will also encourage more cars and through traffic. The North Riverside should become a designated Local Nature Reserve and managed accordingly to encourage further biodiversity at a time when UK insect and all wildlife populations are diminishing. There is also scope for educational projects and related eco-tourism if managed carefully

Message: I am supportive of the overall project but have the following observations The art & literature trail should be linked to an equivalent trail in the town to encourage visits to the town and not just the riverside park Full utilization of the leisure centre car park should be a priority and the plan to have an entry point to the rear of the car park with a relief road is an excellent idea. My wife swims in the river from the fisherman's car park and this community activity should be retained. Reading through the plan I get the feeling that this recreation may be discouraged & shunted into a recreation pool The extension of the fisherman's car park should be done in a manner that is sympathetic to the environment. The Seven meadows extension to the riverside is excellent. The farmland area today between the rec and the seven meadows road seems wasted. A car park in this area would relieve traffic across Clopton bridge and would be very welcome We should be known as a town with an exceptional nature park and trails. We should NOT become a town known for its theme parks, fairground rides, big wheel etc. This extension should not be a back door excuse for more commercialization

Message: I am very concerned by the proposal to enlarge the fisherman's car park to such a large size. The attraction of the fisherman's area of the riverside is its wildness. The Rec is manicured and the contrast is good. Making some easier paths through the area opening some parts up where the paths have become overgrown would be helpful but not if it is detrimental to the wild life. To make it more of a bird and nature watching area would be lovely while allowing fishermen to continue enjoying the area.

Message: I am very keen on the plans to facilitate swimming. I would also like to see the area accessible for launching kayaks - which simply requires NO HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS on the car park - very important. Thanks

Message: I am wholly in support of this idea – I am so conscious only the few voices that are in opposition make the loudest noise and those that think it's great don't take the time to get online and say so – so I hope this helps! The following are my (ignorant) ideas for tweaks. The idea of elongating the Greenway from Meon Vale right up to Fishermans is such an exciting idea for Stratford upon Avon. When I first moved to the area it was only from fortuitously meeting another keen runner that I got to know all the interlinking pathways, the canal loops, river walks down to Clifford under the bridge to the Racecourse, The Greenway to The Tramway to the riverside corridor etc. To tourists and those unaccustomed it's not something they'd know. Beautiful walking and cycling maps of the town and outskirts could be produced – an App even to share the lesser known areas. Riverside North – we regularly paddleboard throughout the year on the river and use Fisherman's car park area as it's one of the easiest places to get into the river. Last summer more people than we ever saw took to the water at Fishermans especially for swimming, inflatable rings, boats, paddle boards and kayaks – it was wonderful. None of these things hurt wildlife or the flora or fauna. All can co-exist. However, the parking was overflowing out onto the road – it was dangerous. Within the there is space for an educational element but also a protected Nature Area – I hope you will continue to work with the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust but to bring in National partners too to ensure the proper measures are taken and wildlife is protected. This space clearly needs to be managed and sections can be left as designated Nature Reserve. But I believe there is space for both. Riverside South – having lived directly up the hill from here for almost 5 years on the farm I know this stretch inside out. The pedestrian bridge by Lucy's Mill in particular could be widened with better accessibility for prams/pushchairs/wheelchairs/bikes etc to make the bridge to bridge loop enjoyable for all. The footpath from the Waitrose island down to the river would benefit from widening, it's hard passing other pedestrians/cyclists as it's so narrow. The tarmac is ruptured in places with cavernous holes. It would be great to fence this path too so it is protected from the road so toddlers and dogs could roam free - I always worried when I saw both 'off leash' as mine (dog!) once darted up the bank after a squirrel who thankfully went up a tree and not out onto Seven Meadows Road. If the area was to become more utilised that is a RTA waiting to happen with toddlers or dogs. This too could be brought properly into a network of safe paths. Electric Water Taxis – wonderful idea. We paddle board and swim in the river and at times petrol can be seen on the water which is a worry. Swimming – I'd love to see the return of a bathing area with floating jettys with safe ladders to get and out of the river. Changing areas would be brilliant too for all those using the water (the amount of times we've driven home soaking wet!)

Message: I approve of better signage for parking, especially if it incorporates the park & ride which already has eclectic charging points & capacity as does the leisure center. I approve of the vehicle entrance to the back of the leisure center. All of your proposals take up green space & encroach on existing wildlife, which obviously would not remain while building work, path laying, tarmacking & other gimmicks are put in place. I hadn't realised that Stratford was a city. I have looked at Node's proposals & other than the bathing pictures all pictures are taken from far bigger sites than the riverside project. Wasn't the idea to generate income for the town? All of your proposals at best will only keep visitors by the river. We residents would lose far more than we would gain [to say nothing of the free parking & the fishermen being able to fish all along the bank]. A lot more needs to be investigated before any decisions made especially regarding plant & wildlife. A definite no from me at this point [would welcome the opportunity to discuss my views further].

Message: I been going to fisher mans for 55 years learnt to swim fish and canoe there

Message: I believe that these proposals go too far and risk damaging this area which it currently a haven for wildlife. Some improvements are required, including tree planting and improvements to footpaths. Enlarging the Fishermen's car park is justifiable but an extension to 500 vehicles is excessive, especially when there is a large car park at Bridgefoot. A light touch to this area is what in my opinion is required.

Message: I believe the proposed improvements to this area of Stratford upon Avon would be a great addition for both residents and visitors alike. I do however have to (name redacted) and as such have been in support of the scheme since the BID was submitted, but as (name redacted) I am always looking at innovative ways to attract guests to any of our Towns. If these can enhance the environment for the local population that is even better and by developing this green space, encouraging further use by foot, cycle, be it peddle power or electric, more access to the river front for leisure activities and 'free swimming' it helps SUA stay relevant in an ever changing and extremely competitive leisure market, but also provides even more reason to make SUA your home and provides more engagement for our younger members of society. I for one will look forward to making use of this space during my lunch hours as and when we return to offices on Stratford, as an amazing opportunity for exercise, taking in the fresh air and studying the fauna and flora that will not only be protected but developed as part of the project. The additional car parking will provide a perfect access point for visitors, who will then benefit from a beautiful gateway into the Town as they meander along the new Riverside Walkways, whilst freeing up parking for residents. The project has my full support from a Business point of view but also as an individual who works in the Town and regularly 'visits' with personal family members and guests

Message: I broadly support the proposal for the extension to the south west of the rec. I think that it would be great if some of the farmer's field in the far south west of the site could be used for biodiversity enhancement and carbon capture – through things such as tree planting and pond creation, as in the proposals. It would be important however to retain the existing mature trees. In the northern section of the riverside corridor many of the ideas and proposals will be detrimental to wildlife and I therefore do not support them. To me, the assertion on the homepage of your website that “This area is a blank canvas...” (under “Place Making Potential”) demonstrates a worrying lack of awareness that this place is already a home for plants and animals – including bats, warblers, kingfishers and otters - some of which are protected or rare. I strongly object to any extension to the car park and am also concerned that introduction of frequent river taxis will destroy habitat and increase disturbance on the river. Drivers should be encouraged to use existing underutilised facilities, particularly the Leisure Centre carpark. Although the website FAQs say that “there are no current plans for buildings or complex structures to be built”, the documents refer to structures such as changing rooms, toilets, café, a visitors' centre and a children's adventure playground, and the reconfiguration of the waterway to create the lido area. Again this would mean a decrease of available habitat for wildlife as well as disturbance during construction, and potential ongoing disturbance if the new facilities were used by large numbers of people. However I do agree that there is scope for better management of the northern area for wildlife (I include your areas Central Areas 37 and 38 in this) and think it is essential to work with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, or a similar body, to achieve this - and to respect their views as experts, in this time of ecological emergency. The site should be designated a Local Nature Reserve, as recommended in a recent report. There could perhaps be scope for path improvement and for environmental education and associated job creation. To conclude I can't do better than quote this from Richard Price, which was in the Stratford Herald in November: “...It's been suggested this area is derelict and unused. It's true that some parts are not that well used by humans, but they are by wildlife. It seems absurd to me when so many other parts of the country are talking about re-wilding areas, we're discussing un-wilding this one...”

Message: I do not see any reason What do ever why the area in question should be changed yes plant more trees and scrubs by all means but why destroy what is already area. The £1.5 million could and should be spent on more important things that need doing in Stratford IE:- like making the pavements safer to walk on, more accessible parking spaces, all the things that you are proposing will be like the ring and ride be used by only the few. I say leave well alone and spend the money in a more positive way that will benefit the majority not the minority

Message: I do not support this plan: 1) The threat to the existing wildlife and habitat. Yes manage some areas better to enhance the environment. Please publish the study carried out so that people have full info. 2) The area being developed is on the flood plain of the River Avon. Please publish the Environment Agency flood risk along with your plans. Building more car parking will not help the areas drainage and the infrastructure will be vulnerable to flooding. 3) Removal of free parking currently much appreciated by elderly and disabled drivers accessing existing facilities 4) What studies have you carried out to support your claims of the benefits of the proposed scheme? What is the demographic of current users?

Message: I don't like this project at all. Horrible Disneyland of ugly structures and ruination of a wild unspoilt area

Message: I don't think this is a good idea at all. The best way to protect natural environments is for man to leave well alone. The more leisure "activities" you add, the further away from natural tranquillity and beauty it will get. Please leave it as a pure and natural eco-space. Remember this - all the earth's environmental problems are due to human activity; every single one! Greed is a terribly ruinous aspect of the human condition

Message: I don't want to see it 'improved'.. You can't improve on nature.

Message: I enjoy walking across Welcombe to fisherman's car park and along the river into town until the past year it was always a nice peaceful place but was overwhelmed this year by visitors treating it like a beach / rubbish tip. I hoped after Covid passes it would return to normal and be a peaceful place for locals but I see someone has smelt the money and wants to turn it into the rec which is already set up to accommodate tourists and is a very different environment with little nature. Shame on you!

Message: I enjoy walking and cycling but dislike doing either on the busy Warwick Road. I do not use the Fisherman's car park as my way home would involve turning right on to the Warwick Road. Expanding the car park must include better egress from the car park. I would certainly consider using this space rather than parking at the Leisure Centre if egress was safer. Walking and cycling routes through the riverside area should aim to meet up with other walking and cycling routes e.g. riverside walking route to Hampton Lucy, Monarch's Way across Welcombe Hills, cycle ways along Stratford canals, (town to Wilmcote) town to Snitterfield through Lower Clopton and King's Lane (which is in urgent need of improvement) past The Farm and in the other direction past Lucy's Mill along the Greenway. Advice from Sustrans could be sought. Cycling could be encouraged by provision of secure lock ups for bikes or provision of safe storage at bike hire outlets. Benches and shelters need to be provided along walkway/running tracks which should be separate from bike paths. Regarding river swimming, I would like to see reports on quality of the water and ideas to improve this if the standard for safe swimming is not reached. Regarding your question about how do I get to the riverside, I drive or walk or cycle. I would walk or cycle more if access were better and cycle safety improved.

Message: I fail to see how extending a car park, cutting back undergrowth, creating paths and encouraging people to traipse all over the place (let alone creating a maze) can possibly improve biodiversity. No parents with babies in pushchairs and all their accoutrements are going to hire scooters. And how long would it take to get the river up to safe bathing standards, considering Weill's Disease, et al? Let alone the possibilities of accident involving swimmers and boats. This seems to me to be an ill-prepared grab for money vanity project, reliant on fit and healthy people and endless good weather. Improve the riverside, yes, but not in this slash and burn way.

Message: I feel that it should be left alone. The only thing that is needed is some careful management around the diverse natural habitat. There are plenty of parking spaces around the town without adding more. The only reason the Fishermans car park is popular is because it's free. If you want to improve the town you need another bridge, like the proposed second crossing of the late 1960s. I expect the majority on the councils and trust where not even living in Stratford, nor born in the town since. Out of town new comers and crooks, who like to big themselves up.

Message: I feel that the extension of the fisherman's carpark is not required. The left of the current car park is a haven for wildlife and this should be protected not built on just to please people coming into Stratford. It will totally ruin the outlook for this area for people visiting, living there and also the outlook for people having fun on the river.

Message: I find this project totally ill- conceived. The area that is proposed to be redeveloped should be left to thrive as a maintained nature reserve, not turned into a playground for tourists and visitors. There are enough facilities for this already. Because money has been acquired and therefore has to be spent is not a good reason to denigrate the precious natural area known as Fisherman's Car Park. With an area delegated for 500 car parking spaces, it would destroy this precious gem, which already has been, only recently, earmarked as a possible Nature Reserve. It is unique in this area, in that it is the only one that borders the river, where wildlife, such as water vole can thrive. Stratford tried to encourage visitors to use the Park and Ride at Bishopton, which has not proved to be a success. They want to drive into town for the cafes, restaurants, shops and theatres, so why not build a multi-storey car park in the Leisure Centre car park. This could be unobtrusive to residents as well. In your presentation on this site, you show people enjoying Stratford on a dry and sunny day. As a resident of 45 years+, I can safely say that this is not always the case. When it's rains, visitors will want to have easy access to their vehicles, not have to make a return journey on foot or by water taxi, in the pouring rain. The failure of any consideration being given to Lucy's Mill Bridge, also alarms me. For years attempts have been made to improve access over the bridge for the elderly, the disabled and young families with pushchairs. A project that took this into account might have some considerable backing from the local community. When walking along the riverbank from the recreation ground, it would be wonderful if pedestrians could cross the bridge and walk back via Holy Trinity church and see all that the other bank has to offer, taking in the RSC and then the town. I urge further consideration as to how this money is spent wisely, not only for visitors but the deserving residents of Stratford Upon Avon and especially with emphasis on maintaining and encouraging more nature in our town.

Message: I fully support the proposed scheme I think it will benefit Stratford and the Avon immensely. We have a great asset which isn't being used fully. Cycling currently along the Rec is banded by byelaws and needs to change. We also need a new accessible Lucy's mill bridge for all. People want to be more active now and we need to help them. People want to use the river, I canoe and paddle board with my children and they love it, let's make it easy for people to enjoy the Avon. I feel blessed to live, work and have a young family in Stratford.

Message: I have already commented but as there is now a petition against it I would just like to say I think this is a brilliant idea. There is not enough space in the Fisherman's car park for locals as it is

Message: I have been a Stratford resident for nearly 30 years and have spent plenty of time either walking or fishing from the Fisherman's car park all the way down to Luddington. I feel the planned changes will spoil the natural attractiveness that it currently has. I don't feel this change is a benefit to the locals but again aimed at visitors. There are many more important projects to be dealt with first including the traffic problems on all the major routes in and out of town. Warwick road is already a car park many days throughout the year and I feel this will just exacerbate the problem moving traffic to other routes into town. This I feel will put locals off using this popular, natural, destination due to its increase in activity.

Message: I have lived in town and / or near the river for nearly 50 years, since my childhood. (redacted) was a member of the rowing club in my school days. My main concern is the creeping commercialisation and urbanisation of the area and my main thought with any 'upgrade' would be to do away with some which already exists as an income generator, particularly closest to the town centre, including tented events on the Rec and the big wheel, as well as the visible expanse of parking, which should have additional screening. Combined, they are a visual slur of no merit to the fine setting, the designated Conservation Area and adjoining listed buildings and some of them counteract the reason why many would visit: to get away from it all. At times, there's hardly room to kick a football or for any other form of informal play. I like the idea of bringing back the bathing area but it's guaranteed to be an insufficient space for demand on hot days. I don't know how you'd regulate that. I'd like to think that the new extension to the Fishermans car park would separate out wheeled users from walkers. I'm a keen cyclist but some just don't get how to respect other users, giving polite warning from afar; separate cycling routes would be useful. Hopefully, some of you know the Danish cycleway system first-hand, which is excellent. What chance have you got of getting access across the river at the static caravan site in Tiddington? I can hear you spluttering now! But collaborative working would be a really positive advance and would increase their income in their large riverside eating house. Similarly, it would be good to see some form of pedestrian link to the Welcombe Hills, although I do like the relative solitude to be found up there and tunnels under a road can be intimidating. I was tempted to tick more boxes in the options of what I'd like to see in the future but, what concerns me in that sort of easily-led questionnaire, is the consequential over-engineered approach to necessary spin-offs such as signage, surfacing, fencing and other commercial paraphernalia such as litter bins and access for maintenance vehicles. You speak of ecological improvement, I think. That is the top priority here and doesn't fit with some of the tick-box options. I get your need to spread the honeypot effect but you also risk becoming a bigger honeypot should you introduce too many 'experiences'. The area needs to be allowed to breathe and be a place of informal R&R rather than being more organised. This is written in haste and without having read the words in this website. (name redacted) But I do feel strongly about the degradation of the central part of the Rec. and would dearly like to see this reversed. Please make sure that you work with ecologists and make their needs the focal point of any future plans for the area. Please keep me informed should you wish further, more detailed input when plans have progressed. And thank you for taking this proposal forward

Message: I have not come across any positive argument for developing the area around Riverside North. Stratford already has under-used car parks. The last thing it needs is another one. It also seems fairly short-sighted to be damaging a natural eco-system when environmental concerns are a massive issue across the country and worldwide. Developing Riverside North will not reverse the damage and neglect that the town centre is suffering with multiple empty shop premises and a chaotic traffic system



Message: I have read Stratford Climate Action's response to your plans and am in broad agreement with them. The absolute priority has to be enhancing the ecological value of the site, planting new trees, increasing carbon capture and improving biodiversity. I am therefore in favour of the idea of planting a new woodland on Onion Fields, helping to provide a bridge between the Riverside Corridor and Bridgetown Woodland and Meadows. I do not like the idea of an expanded car park at Fishermans Car park. It would increase car usage and increase carbons, both in the constructing and in the use. Instead, a slip way to the Leisure Centre Car Park, which is underused currently, would be more productive, and help stop traffic jams on the Warwick Road. An eco-friendly information centre at the Leisure Centre site would also be good. I am worried that Riverside North will become too managed and undermine the ecology of the area. Why not rewild it? Could you introduce new species into the area? Also - what is the most natural way of managing floods? - Because the one thing we can be certain of is that flooding will increase year on year. In Oxford they have projects creating wetlands habitats in local parks. What is the most environmentally productive use of the site? That is the important question - any nature trails and "human" constructions mustn't get in the way of that. Increasingly people care about biodiversity, natural wild spaces, carbon capture and a negative carbon footprint. Please please make these your priority for this area, and we will all reap the benefit of it.

Message: I have two ideas to contribute. 1. Please see my attached diagram proposal to ease traffic on the southern approach. This involves new long stay parking on the onion field to the north of Seven Meadows Rd and a new pedestrian footbridge to allow easier access to the town centre. Benefits would be: 1. Encouraging those who work in Stratford town centre to park and walk. Although the walk is fairly long, is very pleasant and many will calculate that it is more time effective than sitting in the Shipston Rd or Seven Meadows morning jam. The walk is comparable with the walk from the parking behind the Leisure Centre depending on where in town you are heading for. 2. The new footbridge would provide cross river access to a key point point the Shakespeare trail, thus attracting visitor parking. 3. Would alleviate the growing traffic problem from housing developments at Long Marston. 4. Will succeed where the Waitrose 'Park and Ride' failed, as it dose not involve a bus ride in a traffic jam. Possible objections: 1. Although the Environment Agency will object to development on the flood plane, this could be mitigated by making the parking surface permeable to water. 2. Operators of the foot ferry may object to loss of business due to the new footbridge. The new parking will attract more visitors to this side of the river and many of these will prefer to take a ferry ride if it is signed from the bridge. 2. To improve the river as a competitive rowing destination by cutting a new 'canal' through the 'ox-bow' at the northern end of the site. This would create a much longer straight for competitive rowing and a wildlife island. I hope this is useful

Message: I like the idea of the improved access at Lucy's Mill and the sports facilities at the rec. I don't think out of town parking is what anyone wants - neither the Rosebird parking nor the Stratford parkway get used and people just don't want to walk 20 minutes to and from the shops with shopping. The plan says that this parking would be expected to replace some of the parking in town, but it is not like for like and will damage businesses in town. Also there is no clear declaration of intent regarding what would be built in place of existing in town parking - presumably more housing? Who would have the financial benefit from that if so?

Message: I like the idea to offer access to all but The Old Bathing Place is already within yards of a massive car park that is seldom full. To concrete the surrounding area would be a travesty for surrounding wildlife. We certainly don't need electric scooters zipping into town from here. They are dangerous and a menace for walkers. People need to be encouraged to use their own legs. Protection of green areas and wildlife MUST override your 'economic benefits'. Those of us using these spots already do not need more parking. Please do not 'pave paradise and put up a parking lot'.

Message: I like the sound of this. It needs to be accessible to people with all types of disabilities, maybe fragrant plants and information boards at wheelchair & height, and benches for those of us who need to sit down from time to time?

Message: I live in Stratford-upon-Avon and often run by the river in the rec. I really like the idea of recreating the old bathing place by Fisherman's car park and turning it back into a bathing area. I think this would be great for my children to experience outdoors swimming in nature in the spring and summer in a safe environment.

Message: I love the idea of linking it all together but I don't like the idea of more car parking spaces on green land. There are more than enough spaces at the leisure centre so perhaps adjust the route to get to them? I don't like the idea of electric scooters, the pavements are crowded enough. Unless you are going to update the cycle routes I would think it's too dangerous. People will get silly and before you know it there will be incidents and scooters in the river. Finally, you must have a safe cycle route over the river at Lucy's Mill. My 3 children and I cannot cycle to the park because they cannot lift their bikes up the steps and along the narrow walk way.

Message: I love the idea of this project! I especially like the idea of the park and boat into town! Improving the walkways especially in regards to accessibility is a big plus! My concern is around traffic. Firstly, increasing the desire to come to Stratford may well increase the number of visitors, and, as it is, traffic and congestion is a major issue for our town. What ideas do you have to combat this? Secondly, during the pandemic we saw a large increase in the number of people visiting the river by Fisherman's Carpark so much so people started parking on the Warwick Rd. What plans do you have in place to stop this occurring?

Message: I notice reading it that Fishermans carpark is mentioned throughout yet fishing doesn't get a mention

Message: I object to the commercialisation of this area. Encouraging more people, especially tourists can in no way benefit the wildlife of the area. The idea of motorised scooters is horrendous. This sounds like a moneymaking project to benefit very few local people. I am disappointed that Stratford Town Trust is involved with this project

Message: I object to the plans for Riverside North, which would involve cutting a swathe through the much-loved wild space near Fisherman's car park, destroying a huge tract of wildlife habitat and irrevocably changing the character of this unique place, which is a haven for many species, including otters and deer. The current plans for a huge car park, visitor complex, maze and adventure playground would be a massive overdevelopment, and entirely out of place. Instead the project should preserve the wildness of this area by creating a natural wildlife reserve. This would serve to complement the other, more developed areas along the riverside and would demonstrate that we are serious about investing in the future of our town and our planet. I would like the team to consult more widely with environmental groups in addition to the single 'ecologist' mentioned in the plans, and be much more ambitious in its plans for increasing biodiversity. The project should take inspiration from rewilding projects such as Knepp in West Sussex, which has become a magnet for wildlife and visitors alike. Nature lovers would flock to a wildlife reserve on Riverside North, and this would also be cheaper to create and maintain compared with the current plans. I particularly object to the creation of the huge 500 space car park in place of the current 52 space Fisherman's car park, and was alarmed to see that an additional 'ecology area' has also been earmarked for a further car park extension. It would be crazy to site a new car park just 400 yards away from the existing leisure centre car park, which always has hundreds of free spaces. A slip road into the rear of the leisure centre car park is already planned, with improved pathways to the riverside, so this would be a more convenient, cost-effective and environmentally friendly alternative. As the leisure centre is in a more central location it would also encourage visitors to explore both Riverside North and the centre of town, being placed close to both, and this would provide a vital boost to town centre shops, cafes and restaurants. Creating a car park and extensive facilities including a restaurant/café at Riverside North would keep more visitors in that limited area and reduce the incentive to venture further into town. The project is described as a once in a generation opportunity. We owe it to future generations of residents, visitors and wildlife to get this right. I urge you to rethink the development plans for Riverside North, and tread lightly on our treasured wild space.

Message: I object to the Riverside Plan for several reasons: My main objection is regarding the northern area, where existing wildlife habitats will be destroyed if the over commercialised ideas are transferred to revised plans. Rewilding maybe the new buzz word for nature conservation, but 'The Lench Meadows' has been rewilding for over 50 years! Human intervention in such areas never ends well for wildlife when done for commercial profit. Wetlands and flood plains are fragile environments, which should have more than one conservation survey before plans are drawn up. The Neighbourhood plan designates this as an area of 'restraint' and the WWT want it to be a Nature Reserve, so this plan is ill-conceived, unresearched and uninformed with no budget for maintenance, if extra car parking spaces do not bring in extra cash. Expanding the Fisherman's car park on a flood plain without research or proven need is to say the least hasty. It was busy there last summer due to free parking, heat waves, river access, no restraints on alcohol consumption, and no policing of Covid restrictions on gathering of large groups. These were locals not tourists, as Leisure Centre and Bridgeway car parks were at best only 50% full (FOI request). Would it not be prudent to make an access road from Warwick road into the back of the Leisure Centre, reducing traffic congestion and saving our towns precious floodplain. I agree with the WWT survey suggestion that it become a local nature reserve. Any building works, pathways, benches, improved access for swimmers/canoists etc, and fencing to protect sensitive habitats/breeding sites should all be approved by WWT. If the DC prove the need for more parking - please expand the parking south, not north taking rich bird habitat areas away. Finally, please take note of the 1500 plus signatures on the petition to save this area from over development, ruining a wildlife gem and a much needed flood plain. Our planet is fragile we must endeavour to protect it not contribute to its destruction. Future generations will judge us if we don't make the right decisions and every acre saved counts

Message: I often walk my dog along the riverside north having accessed it via the Fisherman's Car Park, in turn having come down from the Welcombe Hills. It is a pleasant enough walk but could be improved. I support the idea to sympathetically extend the Fisherman's Car Park but do have reservations it will bring more anti-social behaviour in the summer months. Anti-social may be too strong a word but I was really sickened by the general waste and litter left by people using the area during last summer's lockdown and I suspect increasing car park capacity will not help matters. But I also see the benefit of reducing traffic coming into Stratford centre and opening up the North side to more pedestrian focused activities so on balance I support the idea. I'd like to see the following: General maintenance and upgrade of the existing metalled path and bridges, possible widening in places. Non slip surface to be applied to the bridge over the river feed into the Crowne Plaza. Cutting back of some of the trees and bushes along the paths. More litter bins and a regular service to empty them, particular during the summer months. I would also like to feel there is a conscious decision made to consider and protect where possible the existing wildlife that exists in the scrubland on the north side. I acknowledge it may be appropriate to put in extra metalled paths to give additional and circular routes in/out of the town centre but I do not see the need to destroy natural wildlife and replace it with harmonised green lawns and bushes everywhere. Let's keep some of the "natural" in the plan so that people have the opportunity to experience both natural then landscaped when they move further south along the riverside

Message: I only discovered the unpaved area from leisure centre to fisherman's car park during the first lockdown despite living only minutes from there. I was so pleased to see the unspoilt natural landscape that it became a regular walk for me. I sincerely hope that any improvements stay in keeping with the natural landscape and don't compromise the valuable habitats which are there as we obviously need to INCREASE biodiversity, not LOSE it. Please consult with wildlife experts and HEED their advice!!

Message: I personally think it's a marvellous idea. The upper region does hold wildlife and the species Deer, monjack, foxes and other roam between there and the Welcombe hills. Otters roam where there is food and travel up to 25km at night and are certainly not rare in the river and mostly resident in families more at the racecourse and Luddington region and often been seen along the canal up past Wilmcote, entering this region from the Shottery brook mouth where it joins the Avon, going up the brook in the culverts along the Alcester road region. I do believe the council using the correct agencies like the Environment agencies departments to improve the Biodiversity of the upper reaches, like Water vole introduction to created suitable habitat, owl boxes, managed wetland to hold newts, Reed warblers and viewing shed, badgers love this area, it's pretty endless what can be done and has been done by many regenerated area in communities around the town. It's obvious people will still keep coming to this area to park and it's not rocket science to see how many people dump there cars along the Warwick road last summer and in the spring pandemic, it needs more spaces and I know that many people inc. the riverside residents will be up in arms but this area will only get busier and if this project does go ahead the council will have to do there utmost to hopefully make the car park very sympathetic to the surrounding in this area. Please remember there is a disabled fishing spot for Anglers and it has to be near the parking spaces and please make sure it's retained close to the car park which will go down well with Anglers. I am aware local dog waking opposition is strong and unfortunately the world has changed a lot recently inc a huge drain on the local authorities funds and this project that had secured the funding is also good for bring more needed people to the town to spend parking up and going into the town and enjoying this new riverside project coming alive. This big plus is the mental well-being benefits is brings to all ages. Please email me if I can help more. Sorry it's late in me replying to your feedback.

Message: I park at OBP most days as I launch my kayak from there. All these changes seem to be spending money for the sake of spending money. This time of year the car park doesn't get much use but in the summer it is heavily used so extra parking would be useful. I would prefer to see the banks of the river upgraded and the rest of the site to remain as it is.

Message: I regularly walk and jog through these areas with my family and dog and always experience a feeling of freedom while enjoying nature in its "natural state". I would support some of the suggested enhancements as long as they protect the Nature Reserve for generations to enjoy - but I vehemently OBJECT to a 500 space car park extension (with scope to extend further). If surveys establish that more car parking spaces are actually required, that will be used regularly, then any extension to Fishermans Car par must use biophilic design to nestle any new parking spaces WITHIN NATURE, via a winding track with angled parking each side that could link with the under-used Leisure Centre Car park - rather than DESTROYING NATURE WITH ONE HUGE MONOLITHIC SLAB!!!

Message: I strongly believe that the area up to the Fisherman's Car Park should be left as it is. The mode is now for 'Rewilding' and as such should be left for nature to sort out the imprint we have made on the landscape. The current network of improvised paths and a single, metalled, track from the town to the car park offers more than enough access - should people so wish. The Leisure Centre Car Park is never full and a path could be made to the river from there.

Message: I strongly object to the highly obtrusive proposed expansion of the Fisherman's car park and to the associated "riverside corridor" development - all driven by the desire to swell "visitor numbers".

Message: I strongly oppose the development of this natural wildlife area. This is one of the very few areas around Stratford that is truly wild and should not be disturbed. It is obviously a commercial venture which will be a detriment to the existing wildlife. Please leave well alone and manage existing walkways which are in a horrendous condition at present due to increased footfall due to covid. The far end of the Recreation area is underutilised and would be far more suitable for development.

Message: I support the proposal, especially the open water river swimming, which has great health benefits

Message: I THINK IT IS ALL A GOOD IDEA!

Message: I think it is such a shame that as human beings we can't have the foresight to realise that we cannot continue to destroy our natural environment and the habitats of countless creatures without it having an impact on the wellbeing of our planet. This development is unnecessary and unjustifiable.

Message: I think it's a real pity that you feel there is a need to develop what is already a lovely natural area. There should be consideration of those that already use the area for fishing and walking (it appears you are removing a huge portion of fishing opportunities when the sport has never been more popular since the pandemic with huge amounts of people now purchasing licences.

Message: I think that this area should be preserved as a Local Nature Reserve. Its greatest appeal is that it provides a natural environment and a haven for wildlife that is important to local people and can still be enjoyed by visitors. Too much of our riverside is being tidied up and concreted over for the benefit of tourists and this is one of the few remaining wild areas.

Message: I think the project is unacceptable. We already have a waterside walk which at present is in two distinctly different sections with distinctly different charms. The busy tourist one down river from Clopton Bridge and the existing more rural one leading to the Fisherman's area. We are pleasing different sections of our community right now. The emotive, outlandish and inflated claims of the three personalities involved in the video has severely damaged any credibility they may have once had. How could they possibly think this initiative can solve all the issues they list. Totally laughable. All we will end up with is more parking covering land that used to support wild life. I really could bang on at length! Please lets look to opening up the old Tramway.

Message: I think the walkways should be widened and a toilet block built but the rest of the land left as it is as it's a haven for wildlife and enough land is being developed, destroying their habitat. There is also the issue of flooding, the more we develop areas such as this the less places there are for water to drain naturally away and it would increase flooding further downstream or across Warwick Rd. Often on Saturdays before covid there are traffic queues right along Warwick road up to Hatton rock turning or beyond so I don't understand how this development will help with traffic problems. On top of this would it not be better to invest in the town centre as there are many empty shops and rates etc are high so are killing the town except for tourists. Improve the park and ride and that will help the traffic. Build a bus station by the park and ride to reduce traffic and pollution with a free shuttle bus going into town and only local buses in the town centre.

Message: I think to develop the ecology of the area (planting trees, nature trails, cycle routes, walkways etc would be great! But do not agree in extending fishermen's car park. while you say the bathing place used to be a "haven for swimmers" and the public this is becoming extremely dangerous where commercial boating is concerned ( name redacted) and a serious accident resulting in a fatality is "inevitable". Times have changed since the distant past Stratford is a lot more congested than it was. Especially the river which is a lot more busy than it was in the past. And extending fishermen's car part will be a disaster waiting to happen! with more swimmers and "water sporters" flocking to the area each year it can only end badly

Message: I think we need to keep green areas. Most councils are trying to preserve green areas not turn into concrete. There is a lot of wildlife because it is unspoilt.

Message: I understand that part of the site was previously used for the Town tip- antedating current disposal legislation. Have you carried out any toxicology assessment on this brownfield site prior to your proposal? Have you carried out any assessment of current use/footfall before planning additional car parking and building? Do you have an Environment Agency assessment of flood risk/flood alleviation measures on the Avon? Have you consulted the archives of the SBT about covenants on the land at the Lido? The Flowers family were very pro-active in protecting land they gifted for public use

Message: I use the Riverside North at least 2-3 times a week all year for swimming. It is a beautiful safe spot, god park and plentiful room. I know of others who do the same. Open water swimming is not only great exercise but an integral part of good mental health. Improving access into the river whilst maintaining natural beauty would be a great asset. There are already steps but they are in need of repair. A coffee van would be welcome, particularly this time of year.

Message: I walk round this area most days, for my own exercise and to walk my dog. The areas considered in this plan are great assets to the town and I agree they could be better managed. 1. The whole area is a flood plain. This is why it has not been, and should not be built on, including car parking. It saves other areas from flooding. 2. A great variety of wildlife lives on and around the river which, is a corridor as well as a habitat. Wildlife is much enjoyed by visitors and locals alike. Rather than seeing it as informal parkland, turn it into a nature reserve, minimising human disturbance. 3. The Fisherman's Car Park is busy because it is free. Plenty of car parks are not regularly full eg the multistorey. Other out of town car parks, near Waitrose and Park and Ride, are not busy even though they too have foot access to town. 4. Land is not "underutilised", and a "blank canvas", because nothing is built on it. The lack of human development increases the value of these areas. The proposed visitor centre, gallery, café, toilets, changing facilities, viewing tower, woodland maze, structures to support swimming and river taxi would be massive overdevelopment. Manage the area by all mean, but lightly. 5. We need to make more of what we already have. Lucy's Mill Bridge is the area which could be improved most if it was seriously addressed. Also make better bridges between the current car park and the town, repair the steps above the lock at Weir Brake, improve the surface of the Greenway. Signage needs to be made much better. Many paths can be linked together and I regularly assist visitors who are looking for longer walks, runs and bike rides. Make more all-weather paths, kept clear for the less able. 6. Encourage people into our struggling town centre. The businesses discussed in the plan would compete with them. The Lucy's Mill Bridge loop would bring more people along the town side of the river. 7. The Onion Field has the potential to be a great addition to the Recreation Ground, but it should not be turned into a car park. Vandalism is already a problem in this area.

Message: I would like to see SDC spend money on reviving the town, which is looking very 3rd world - empty shops, too many cheap sandwich & coffee shops - instead of the unique historic town it used to be,

Message: I would like to see the wild areas kept as they are and not developed. There is already enough boats on the river. Locals should get more consideration than tourists I would not like to see angling pushed out

Message: I would like to see these principles included in the plans: 1. Take a whole-Stratford view – the plans for the riverside corridor in isolation risk fragmenting town development, causing problems, and not benefitting from opportunities elsewhere in the town. Pathways, cycle routes, parking, placing cafes, each need to be considered Stratford-wide. 2. Prepare for the impact of the Canal Quarter proposals and the opportunities for a comprehensive town development plan. 3. Developments should respect and support the Neighbourhood Plan. 4. Prioritise the infrastructure developments and let local entrepreneurs do the rest. PEDESTRIANS, WALKERS, RUNNERS AND CYCLISTS I welcome the references to encouraging people to walk and cycle. I would like to see: a. A comprehensive plan for foot paths and cycle routes across the whole of Stratford. - The Riverside plans are fragmented from the rest of Stratford. Foot and cycle paths need to be connected and clearly signposted. If you do not address the flow of pedestrians and cyclists around the whole of the town, any proposals are likely to cause more problems - the bottlenecks will get more congested, unpleasant and potentially dangerous. b. Improved linked pathways around the whole of the riverside corridor Good pathways around Lench Meadows, easy and safe crossing at the central area, on to the rec, down the tramway, road crossings at the Rose Bird car park, the pathway on the far side of the Seven Meadows Road (though outside of the Riverside Corridor), over Lucy's Mill Bridge, to the Greenway or up to Holy Trinity and along to the Bancroft... These would be great walking and running routes. c. Lucy's Mill Bridge improved for disabled access. d. The quality of some of the pathways must be improved, from a trip-hazard perspective. The cycle routes are probably more difficult. Cyclists hold up traffic on Clopton Bridge, and are not permitted on the footbridge to the rec. For example, if you were to cycle through the Lench Meadows and arrive at the Leisure Centre Car Park, where do you go then? If possible, a cycle route that would link Lench Meadows, the rec, and go on to the Greenway would be a great leisure route. However, if you want to increase footfall in the town

centre the routes need to go into town and there must be adequate cycle parking places. ECONOMIC RECOVERY Nice place for walkers, runners and cyclists. However, for the economic recovery of our high street, people need to be taken into the town centre to visit shops, cafes, pubs, restaurants etc. A handful of concessions along the Riverside won't match the impact of bringing people to the high street. In fact, a café at the Riverside would be in direct competition with the café's in town. I would like to see a plan for how the Riverside Corridor will bring visitors to the town centre Including management of the flow of visitors: - From the Riverside to the town centre - From the south, through the Riverside to the town centre - From the north, through the town centre to the Riverside - including how to increase use of the much-maligned Bishopton Park and Ride WELL-SIGNPOSTED Creative language and design to lead visitors around the Riverside and into the town and enhance their experience. I would like to see, along with improved pathways, clear and enticing signposting to lead visitors around the town. This will also improve the experience of visitors having parked at the Rose Bird car park, the Leisure Centre, coming from the train station or north of the town, and from the rec or Lench Meadows. CAR PARKING ON THE WARWICK ROAD LANDS I object to the extension to the Fisherman's car park, as the leisure centre car park and Bridgefoot car parks are under used. I would like to see: a. Slip road from Warwick Road to the leisure centre car park Moves traffic off the road at an earlier stage and frees up the gyratory. The EV points could be here. b. Slip road to the back of the leisure centre car park clearly signposted as "ACCESS TO RIVERSIDE" c. Introduce a 30 mph speed limit before the entrance to the Fisherman's Car Park Safer turning into and out of the existing car park, and safer road crossing for walkers coming down the hill on the footpath from Rowley Fields d. A speed camera as you enter the 30mph zone to aid enforcement An example of this can be seen as you arrive in Woodstock from the South and is effective at controlling speed. e. Double yellow lines along Warwick Road to the end of the 30mph zone, to prevent people parking dangerously on the pavement. WARWICK ROAD LANDS / LENCH MEADOWS I would like to see: a. The whole of the North part of the riverside corridor (both North and South of the Fisherman's Car Park) upgraded from a Local Wildlife Site to a Local Nature Reserve. b. Sensitive management of the lands (as recommended by WWT, Stratford Climate Action) and waterways. c. This includes seeking advice on the impact of increased traffic on the river. d. Footpaths, seating and signage as recommended by reputable wildlife experts. e. One cycle route only, along the main pathway through the middle of the meadows. The space is not big enough for a decent cycle route, along with footpaths, without impacting the wildlife reserve. f. Allow people to benefit from wild space and proximity to nature. A nature reserve, a chance to sit and watch bird life or listen to the wind in the trees, is as much a draw to increase "dwell time" as any man-made enhancement or gimmick. g. Please, no references to Shakespeare. OTHER PROPOSALS: I would like to see: a. The area between the leisure centre car park and the skate park needs cleaned up, made safe, clean and salubrious. b. Any proposals developed with young people for the space near to the skate park. c. Toilets could be provided at this end of the leisure centre car park d. The rec as the focus for 'human footprint' developments – with benches, seating areas, places for people to gather together, performance areas. Let people decide what to do with it – maybe someone will create speaker's corner or a buskers' area... An improved children's play area is a lovely idea. e. An area in the rec that could be used for outdoor performances that could be ticketed. (Name redacted)

Message: I would suggest that you leave well alone. Let's priorities the more important thing that need addressing like dredging the river, supporting the small business that are struggling and more importantly learning from the mistakes that have been made in the past

Message: I wouldn't like to see high price car parking. I would like to see the slide back



Message: I'm aggrieved, (name redacted) that angling seems to be low on the priority list for this development. Most anglers care lots about the wildlife and ecology of the waterways we fish. As a reward for this it seems these new plans don't care about them and have access reduced to 2 pegs which is nowhere near enough for 1: an option if swims. 2: fulfil the demand for anglers. The plan to make a wildlife and ecology centred development to cater for all is a great one but I'm afraid us anglers will be punished by these plans. It will take more than a motoring celeb now selling the benefits of 'freeing up the roads' 20 years too late to change my mind otherwise

Message: I'm concerned about the size of this project and how it will interfere with natural habitat. The idea of increasing the size of the fisherman's carpark seems very wrong to me as does the 'development' of that area. Otters are seen there they won't stay long if lots of people start arriving and water taxis are coming and going. The wetlands aspects just seem to be added in as after thoughts

Message: I'd like to hear more about electrification within the plans please. Thank you

Message: If we are concerned about wildlife in Riverside North then we must remind ourselves that nature likes to be undisturbed and untidy. So either we leave it alone or we ask Warwickshire Wildlife to manage it as a valuable reserve. If we want to monetise it then we follow the plan and turn it into a revenue stream. We seem to be trying to do both, and if we do then the wildlife will just disappear, without making a fuss and a valuable wildlife area will have been lost unnecessarily. Is this really what we want? If we are serious about climate change and loss of bio-diversity then we really must leave Riverside North to be undisturbed and untidy as nature intends

Message: I'm concerned that turning the Fisherman's Car Park into a bigger car park will spoil that area which is already a wonderful and well used resource by kayakers, walkers and open water swimmers. Please ensure there is a safe area to access the river to swim away from water taxis and whatever else is planned and don't spoil this lovely place.

Message: I'm keen for better accessibility, but fail to see any ideas around accessible e-taxis, or any accessible playground equipment. Will there be any? Will disabled people be involved in advising and supervising construction? If not, why not?

Message: I'm particularly concerned about the proposed changes from Area 1 Riverside North along towards Stratford Leisure Centre. This area should be respected as a prime wildlife area and managed appropriately to encourage biodiversity and not developed as a car park extension or opened up unduly for public access. The grant would be better spent tidying up the area immediately at the back of the leisure centre - encouraging people to park at the leisure centre car park. I think a small wildlife conservation visitor centre sited by the leisure centre explaining the importance of the adjoining wildlife site would be good compromise with the purpose of encouraging people to respect and explore the immediate area along mowed ride ways which allow minimum damage to the vegetation and incumbent wildlife. Re-engage with Stratford as a tourist attraction - people should be encouraged to head to the town for art/culture trails (even shopping!!) along the Rec and towards Seven Meadows. Please, please prioritise the needs of the local fauna and flora first when considering the Riverside project - it's the town that needs a massive amount of money spent on it for regeneration, not the area abutting the Fisherman's Car Park

Message: I'm still relatively new to Stratford and, living in Shottery, my walks tend to take in the Southern and Central riverside areas. I've only really become aware of Fisherman's car park this year. Having become aware of the Riverside project in recent months, read the project documentation and watched the videos, my main concern is that a potential 500-space car park as part of the new scheme is much too large - this is the equivalent of the leisure centre car park all over again. Can this really be necessary? Where has the figure of 500 parking spaces come from? Isn't this as much about generating additional parking revenue as it is about encouraging people to walk into the town? And where is the evidence to suggest that people coming to Fisherman's car park will even walk into the town? Or that new small businesses will be able to open as a result of this project? I am unconvinced. The whole project comes across as a riverside park and ride scheme, the potential impact of which on the local ecology has not been prioritised or fully investigated. The proposal to develop a sort of 'green theme park' in the northern zone to make the area more obviously interesting/attractive to visitors does not seem appropriate in a space that is essentially wild. Yes, wild can sometimes look rather scruffy but you're in real danger of changing the whole nature of this area by turning it into some sort of sanitised 'attraction'. And if river traffic (water taxis) were to be introduced/increased, what will the effect on local wildlife and environment be? Aren't you just shifting the congestion/pollution issue onto the river? I do understand the need to boost the town's economy, especially after the last disastrous year, but you do need to give people a reason for coming into the town. With so many shops closed down in the centre (notably Bridge St), shouldn't the priority be to regenerate the Central zone? To summarise, the Riverside project comes across as a riverside park and ride scheme with an oversized car park and a bit of 'green' wellbeing tacked on. Too many 'coulds' feature within the scheme's 'benefits', with little evidence provided to back it all up. This certainly does not come across as the ecology-driven project I was expecting/hoping it would be. For this reason, I object to the current plan.

Message: In principle it looks great. The proof will be the implementation and how it can be tied into the traffic from the main roads (Birmingham, Evesham, Alcester, Warwick, Tiddington, Shipston etc). Has any thought been given to trying to also reduce traffic on the Tiddington road by considering parking on the private land opposite the Fishermans carpark and a pedestrian bridge over the river to join this from the North East rather than have traffic come all the way into town via Tiddington Road? Management will be key and the funding to support maintenance. Has any consideration been given to how it might tie in with the proposed marina site south of seven meadows if that is ever going to proceed. Wider consideration may be required, the path from Lucy's Mill Bridge up to the Church is also narrow and a bottle neck. This would be good to expand especially with Bicycles potentially allowed over Lucy's Mill Bridge. Would the hire bicycles have drop of points in town so people could then choose to walk back. Could the riverside paths also be considered down to the Greenway and link that in somehow via the lock gates and back up to the Lucy's Mill Bridge on the North Western side as there is also some great land unused there which would also fill in the area to the Racecourse Expanding it even further. That in itself will open it wider and increase the fitness and wildlife opportunities and encompass the whole of the Avon within Stratford. This links in with the Greenway in a wider coordination. I assume this will also plan to link in with the Canal quarter if that ever takes off so as offering some relief to the Birmingham road and provide yet another artery into the areas via the canal path if that was improved. All interesting, I look forward to see what is finally agreed and options considered for subsequent expansion

Message: In theory it's a great plan but not sure now is the right time. With a little thought the car park could be better designed to accommodate more cars with the same footprint. Suggest the footbridge be replaced with something more usable immediately. Money might be better spent replacing Lucy Mill bridge which is unsafe and impossible to social distance on. Would strongly object to paying for the car park. This is all too rushed frankly.

Message: It concerns me that you have not offered Stratford residents the opportunity to prioritise how they want the money to be spent Eg. 1. Pay and Display car park 2. Nature Trails 3. Enhance existing habitat etc this will then offer transparency in terms of The collation of information which can be shared publicly. I give you my explicit permission to make this question public.

Message: It is clear that extending the fisherman's car park would be a disaster, environmentally, this is an area of natural beauty inhabited by many protected species. The area is frequently flooded, it would be a positive danger to the riverside and to vehicles and users of the car park. Last year there was a great deal of public nuisance disturbance at the existing car park. The amount of human excrement left by visitors was appalling, and a health hazard. The noise from rowdy illegal campers and visitors was disgraceful. How well is the current park and ride car park supported? Surely the money would be better spent promoting and supporting the local hospitality industry? The effects of COVID-19 on the town must be catastrophic.

Message: It is very encouraging to see planned investment in the environment, health and wellbeing in Stratford. Stratford should have the ambition to be the leading green town in the Midlands and this is a welcome first step. It is appreciated that the available funding may be limited at this stage, but some low cost considerations for the project could be: - Use environmentally friendly materials for the new parking area, such as grasscrete or similar, that avoid a heavily tarmacked area - Although the additional parking area is in a little visited area wildland, ensure that tree planting elsewhere offsets any losses in this area - Road speeds are too high at the entrance to the Fishermans car park. In due course a new junction might be required, a mini roundabout or similar. Short term, if that is not achievable, then starting the 30mph zone further out will reduce risk and reduce emissions. - There is a walking path that comes to the Fisherman's car park from the Welcombe Hills. Lower speeds and perhaps a central traffic Island would enable the creation of a circular walking route with safe crossing of the Warwick Road and also improved access on foot from town. - To encourage more out of town parking and get the environmental benefits of reduce vehicle journeys in town, parking could be reduced at the leisure centre. This could be repurposed for perhaps a cargo e-hub. If this can be achieved then it gives the project a multiplier benefit of reducing van journeys in town by dropping most deliveries at the hub and then onward shipping by electric van or bike. Consistent with green nature of the project, and a cornerstone of the green journey Stratford needs to follow. - The higher direct route from the Fishermans car park to the town centre should be segregated to split foot and bike/scooter traffic to ensure safe usage for all, and ideally also lit to ensure maximum usability. - Bike/scooter share could, subject to funding form part of the project in order further reduce traffic and increase zero emission mobility for visitors but in particular for residents This should be seen as the first step as an aggressive zero carbon agenda, encouraging local residents to use local facilities, reducing car traffic and increasing zero emission mobility, and encouraging zero emission tourism, whilst also supporting local health and wellbeing.

Message: It will be fundamental to separate walkers, with or without dogs, from bicycles and electric scooters etc.

Message: It would be great to have some cycling specific facilities in a traffic free environment to grow on the success of the greenway. A closed circuit which can be used for kids coaching, including accessible coaching and adult coaching, and racing. What about a pump track, CX/MTB track and other facilities. This could be used by clubs as well as the general public.

Message: It's called 'fisherman's carpark' and your plans will ruin all the fishing

Message: Its all sounds very welcome. Any improvement in outside areas are very welcome. I am a fisherman (name redacted) and do accept that fishing will be restricted. There are plenty other places to fish, and this area is a perfect site for such development near historic Stratford. Good luck with a great project.

Message: I've been saying for years that the Onion Fields should be co-opted into a green space in addition to the 'Rec', and we desperately need the cycle/disabled link at Lucy's Mill. I think you should allow for parking on the present Onion Fields and keep cars out of the Rec. I feel for the poor visitors who have to take an age to get out of Swans Nest Lane - we don't need congestion there. The ideas for Riverside North make sense and will encourage us to walk/cycle/entertain the grandkids. 100% behind this - go for it and don't let the blue-noses stop you!

Message: I've fished in the area of the Lido for many years and am a (name redacted) I avoid the area at Lucy's Mill due to the Draconian parking charges levied by the council. Any proposed "improvement" will of course come with a SIMILAR price tag!! If we anglers are priced out of the equation it will be a great loss. Generally it is the angler who is the wildlife guardian on the river, as everyone else is generally either coming or going. If there was a way to recognise the angler in some way by being allowed free parking, I could almost accept the "improvement" if not I fear you won't see me and others like me in that area again

Message: Leave it as it is and spend the money on doing the what is becoming a very grotty town centre up.

Message: Let nature take its own path and develop naturally. Bringing in more people and making more areas accessible will totally destroy the fragile ecosystem. Preserve, conserve and hands off

Message: More should be made of the Fisherman's car park and the Park and Ride to reduce pollution and congestion in the town.

Message: Must take into consideration how this space will be used in the late afternoon / early evening too. I think some 'street' lighting will be necessary in some spaces for safety

Message: My concern is the development planned for the Fisherman's Car Park area of the riverside from there to the Crowne Plaza Inn. It is a beautiful and natural area which supports a variety of wild life , unique in its proximity to our town centre and a joy to many people who would otherwise not have the opportunity to connect to nature during these troubled and challenging times. There are other greener ways of attracting income and creating jobs in the town, ideas that many leading statesmen and economists have recognised as both possible and achievable if we are to become carbon neutral before it's too late. Please reconsider this ill-conceived, short sighted and destructive plan which would ,in the long term , fail to benefit either local wild life or local people.

Message: My husband and I have for years walked into town from the Fisherman's car park and in principle agree with improving paths and cycle routes along the river without destroying the natural habitat. A circular path and connection to the Greenway for bicycles would offer more opportunities for exercise. Our concern is MORE traffic on Warwick Road to reach the car park and access to town is still poor from the North side of town which means the benefits from this project would not be felt by visitors unless the road issue is improved too

Message: My issue is that there is no definitive time / program period for the works involved. This would / could mean major disruption to Local residents for an unacceptable amount of time. Works would start, and then be added to? Once a definitive scheme has been worked up, then put it to the public...but to decide now on limited information as to what it could look like, is unfair and unreasonable. Wildlife must be preserved at all costs

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Message: My main concern are the plans to extend the car parking to up to 500 vehicles. I cannot agree with Mr Wilsons comments regarding traffic flow and queuing into the town via the Warwick and Birmingham Roads. We have an almost empty park and Ride which is easily accessed from both the Warwick and Birmingham roads. The signage needs improving for this underutilised site. The bus transfers need improving and costs need to be closely monitored so that motorists are not penalised for using these ample facilities. There is no doubt that if these facilities were improved it would remove large quantities of traffic from both the Warwick and Birmingham roads

Message: My main objections for the moment are to your development of the "riverside north" area between the "fisherman's carpark" and the Leisure Centre. This area provides valuable wildlife habitat and your plans will decimate much of this. [New paragraph] You say in "2. Analysis" that a key issue is "opening up access and protecting ecology and wildlife at the same time". You say in "3.Opportunities" that you can "create a mosaic of habitats to improve biodiversity" and later under "Ecology" you repeat this in different words and add that you can protect "existing trees and hedgerows". [New paragraph] The preservation of just some of the existing trees and hedgerows is not so much a positive as a limitation on a negative. It is clear that many of the developments you propose will result in a loss of many of the existing trees and hedgerows. Moreover, given the considerable loss of space for wildlife habitat that your plans imply, it is difficult to see how you can create new habitats and enhance biodiversity {except perhaps by very considerably reducing the size of each existing habitat type and the numbers of animals in existing species currently supported there}. [New paragraph] There is very littler specific about new habitats in your proposals in "6. Design" or elsewhere. You list a narrow woodland planting to Warwick Road by the new carpark and a "new wetland nature reserve to encourage wildlife", but these will be far smaller than the habitat which you will destroy. Your siting of the new carpark on existing scrubland is but one example of this; indeed it looks as if the new part of the carpark will cover a larger area than the woodland planting and the new wetland. You also list an "ecology area" but then designate it as "potential future extension of car park" ... this nicely symbolises your priorities! [New paragraph] In addition to the large new carpark, among the things that will take up space and diminish wildlife habitat are the new visitor centre, the new event/performance space, the reading room, the toilets and changing room, the maze, the adventure playground and mountain biking route, the new wooden viewing tower, and various other things. The widening of paths and the construction of new paths will also destroy much wildlife habitat. [New paragraph] I am not necessarily opposed to every single one of these developments, but cumulatively they amount to a massive reduction of wildlife habitat and a massacre of wildlife. [New paragraph] You say that "the design team will be working alongside an ecologist to identify existing constraints and opportunities for enhancement within the detailed design of proposals". I suspect that your token ecologist will have little influence and no power to do more than perhaps tweak a few details of your misguided plans.

Message: My wife and I came to Stratford for our retirement - to be closer to ships and essential services and the vibrant theatre scene, having spent all our married life in the countryside. Whilst we accept that Stratford needs to provide employment to younger people in the town, and that encouraging visitors is essential to support its theatre scene, the one thing the Covid pandemic has taught us is that we cannot support the mass invasion of visitors that has been a feature of the past. The town is full of, quite frankly, tacky gift shops and cafes that make it very unattractive to residents and proper shoppers from elsewhere. The traffic is horrendous. We must not encourage more visitors - the town must adapt and find new sources of revenue that do not involve it being over-run by more visitors and more traffic. As to the Warwick Road area, this should be preserved as a rewilded area - the idea of bringing more cars into the Fisherman's car park is insane! We need less parking in the town not more! The biodiversity of this important area simply won't be enhanced by increasing the presence of people. Currently it is a tolerably pleasant space to enjoy a quiet walk and enjoy the nature. I'm sorry, but zi will be devastated if it is developed as a recreational area.

Message: Myself and my wife both think that there is sufficient parking available at the recreation ground and the leisure centre without the need to increase Fisherman's car parking. This area does need more seating and improvement to the edge of the old bathing place to improve safety of all visitors and users. The paths also need improvement. If money is so available, it should be used to clean up the parkland we already have. (The recreation ground in particular). The expansion of Fisherman's Car Park is not required and looks very much like a purely money making scheme for S.D.C., why can't things be left as they are!.

Message: No need to extend Fisherman's car park, use the swimming pool one which would still give access to the site. Concerned about swimming pool unless it is well looked after as I remember this bringing polio to Stratford. Better organisation of land use, develop what is there do not re design. Look at Northamptonshire where they have made wonderful use of old quarries. SDC should not be given carte blanche to gain from more car parking charges, people will always find somewhere they do not have to pay for access to what could be a wonderful space.

Message: OBP is a very special place for swimmers. Please don't just turn the area into an extended car park - put park & rides / cycle in elsewhere instead (e.g. far end of the Greenway). OBP is already too busy.

Message: Our concerns: We are not kept up to date with the project plans and meetings will not be arranged with residents so we can give our views. Also we are not happy with the extension of the Fisherman's Car Park, due to the lack of screening between the houses and car park.

Message: Overall use of this space is to be applauded. I would go further though and link a cycle route not only to the car park but take them out radially to all the surrounding villages - like the greenway. Not along the road but across the countryside itself if possible. If there safe cycle routes into town and not along the very busy A46 you would need less parking spaces as cycling would become a more attractive option for children families and older village residents. Consider adding low level maybe motion sensitive lighting (solar powered of course) enabling cycling in the evenings as an option too. Secure bike shelters or 'tethering points' in the town centre - these could be wonderfully sculptural and no need to be ugly add ons. I would also relocate the Xmas and Victorian markets to the riverside or memorial gardens too, much pleasanter toe walk around and no need to close off the town centre to traffic if any kind. I do have two questions though... what would happen to the riverside festival, and would ample revision for litter disposal be provided? Especially if you are going to have a "bbq area"?

Message: Overall We like the scale and scope of the Riverside Green Corridor project. We are entirely in support of the opening up of access to the green spaces along the river to the public, and with limited and sensitively designed development, encouraging a greater number of diverse visitors to enjoy the open spaces. We already know from visitor surveys that the river and its tranquil environment is one of the most popular aspects of the town. Riverside North 3. We think the car park should be stretched out in a narrow band adjacent to the Warwick road. The car park could be planted with trees and parking bays surfaced with a concrete matrix to allow grass to grow up, and drainage back through. The narrow car park will provide a barrier, or transition space, between the road and the green park area, and maximise the open space for picnics and recreation next to the river. On the plan, the picnic space does not appear to be any larger than it is currently, and it already gets very full. I see this has been addressed in the updated Concept Landscape Design. 10. A new visitor centre would be an asset here and could become a destination in itself for travel up from the town centre to this green space, allowing visitors to pause and obtain refreshments. 14. Other Stratford authors to think about are Marie Corelli (1855-1924); the worlds first international best-selling novelist, who lived in Stratford; Ursula Bloom (1892-1984), one of the worlds most prolific authors who lived in Stratford as a young girl and wrote over 500 books, and Elizabeth Gaskell (1810-1865), the novelists and biographer, who was at school in Stratford-upon-Avon. 22. The river should not be narrowed here on the bend as we often turn our passenger vessels on this corner where the river is wider and deeper, due to the scouring effect on the bend. Any construction here would seriously restrict the space to turn a vessel. 33. A river ferry from this point will allow visitors to park

away from the centre of town, and provide a service in and out of the centre far superior to a bus ride down the Birmingham road. Capacity on the service could be an issue, but with other means of getting to and from the centre by walking, or using a shuttle, it should not be restrictive. Riverside Central 46. We fully support improved pedestrian and cycle priority in Swans Nest Lane. 47. We like the idea of re-allocating the Swan Nest Lane car park for bike parking, although it seems a bit far from the centre for cyclists? Riverside South 74. A new car park with access from the Seven Meadows Road would help enormously the congestion on the Banbury Road and down Swan Nest Lane by reducing the volume of traffic into and out of the existing Recreation ground car-park.

Message: Part of the land was donated by the Flowers family. What covenants are in place as they protected their donated green spaces? Have you bought the "Onion Field"?

Message: Please can you make Lucy's Mill Bridge accessible for buggies. It is really hard to get over it with a buggy and small children when you're on your own.

Message: Please do not change this area - Stratford has been transformed for the humans - leave this area at one with nature. There are creatures and plants thriving - do not disturb

Message: Please do not encourage yet more CARS to visit Stratford. To think that this development is going to prevent town congestion is naive. I have worked in the tourist industry in this beautiful town for 30 years and have watched how peoples behaviour towards it has altered. Shopping at the Maybird is now a priority as there are so few shops in town, particularly now, as well as maybe a boat trip....put those two activities together and already you have a problem.....Scenario...park by the river, walk into town. Get back into the car drive through town to the Birmingham Road to shop. Warwick Road and the gyratory even now in "lockdown" are busy. Last summer was unique at the Fisherman's car park. In 30 years I have never seen it so busy...BUT there was a pandemic, car parking is free and the summer was kind. However the river Avon has a life of its own and no development will tame it. There are umpteen dangers with the proposals and ones that could cost the council dearly. Tiddington Road residents should also be made aware that the security of their properties is at risk. I saw on numerous occasions last summer members of the public sitting on their jetties, after swimming across the river. Once the council take "charge" of this proposed development their coffers will be open to abuse, particularly where health and safety is concerned around the element of water.

Message: Please do your developing away from the river

Message: Please don't extend the car park and please protect the wildlife habitat

Message: Please leave Fisherman's car park as it is and designate the land a LNR, can still provide accessible simple walkway but no more 'development' or footfall than now. Develop South Riverside where it is a genuine amenity for SuA. Fisherman's is just too far away from town for most visitors and locals want it as it is so no point in extension. It limits numbers which is good. Please leave alone.

Message: Please leave the fisherman's car park as to Stratford Town as is, it has many wild flowers, fungi, butterflies and birds that thrive in this untouched area. It's the last wild area left near town, our wildlife needs to be left alone

Message: please leave the Fishermans car park and surrounding area as it is. what rubbish it will encourage people to use restaurants its a long walk to the town centre besides there is plenty of parking leisure centre gyratory marina recreation grounds. the gyratory and leisure centre are not well used even on hot summer weekends maybe just tidy up some of the trees and a bench or two is all the area needs and the wildlife will remain intact and not disturbed with this unnecessary project. Put the money to better causes.

Message: Please leave this unspoilt area along Warwick Road alone, other than making arrangements with the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust to manage it.

Message: Please leave well alone

Message: Please make sure paths are wide enough for walkers and scooters/cyclists. A land train to and from town for less able bodied & make a tourism feature. A road- or foot-bridge over from the Tiddington Rd to Fishermans carpark to reduce traffic from north of the river. River taxis could join forces with existing Tiddington caravan taxis. An enclosed dog run on the South Area

Message: Please put improving environment higher priority and limit the car park enlargement to 100

Message: Previously when this was considered you included a closed circuit cycle racing track for the community for all to use. This was consulted with British Cycling. I notice this does not appear on the plans. This is disappointing. Can it be reconsidered?

Message: Put the brakes on Disney-upon-Avon, the £2m would be better spent revitalising the town centre/supporting existing businesses and not raising parking fees. There is no point in destroying a natural area for the tourists who will not want to visit a dying town. The increase in parking fees will not generate more income as tourists will not want to visit a town where there is little variety of shopping options and to walk streets of closed shops and businesses. The locals will not want to shop in town as they will shop where there are no parking fees and more variety. Tourists and locals want to see an unspoiled country town with a rustic, old-world look, not one that is landscaped to perfection. There needs to be a good balance of businesses to attract both local and tourist visitors; some unique boutiques and interesting eateries to make a trip to the town special and memorable.

Message: Re extending Fishermans car park: the proposed area sits in an often flooded part of the flood plain; how will a large paved (tarmac) area effect wetlands as well as biodiversity? Warwick Road is a principle artery through the town and often suffers with queuing traffic. The addition of 500 cars for access to the proposed car park, will further increase the severity of this issue. What is really needed is a by-pass route for traffic heading south, avoiding Clopton Bridge and Stratford town. A cycle route from Ryon Hill for office worker use, passing the caravan site for holiday maker use as well as passing Ingon Lane to bring a country cycle route into the centre of Stratford would be a good addition. Currently the Warwick Road is not a safe route for cyclists. The riverside flood plain to the North specifically is an important area of biodiversity and wildlife, and although it's not picturesque, it is regularly flooded (as it is today, 29th January!) and plays an important role in managing River Avon floodwater. Special care needs to be taken in protecting the natural habitat, alongside any plans to increase public access (walkways, paths etc), the two generally being mutually exclusive. In general I support biodiversity protection and improvement and think that improvements to the Riverside pathways would be a positive step. Better cycle routes into and out of Stratford town linking up country cycle routes to the North and South would also be most beneficial. I am unconvinced that an extension of the Fisherman's car park is sensible option due to the already congested Warwick Road and the extent of regular flooding of the site. A Stratford town by-pass remains a long overdue need to help alleviate the town of heavy traffic issues.

Message: Really excited about this coming to fruition

Message: Really interesting project but what it does not do is address the lack of accessible river crossings in the town. Pressure will still be on the Tramway bridge with cyclists (being forced to dismount), wheelchair users and prams being discouraged to complete what could be an enjoyable and more importantly safe circuit back into the town via Lucy's Mill bridge. I also can't see any proposal of how the crossing could be improved between Cox's Yard and the grassed area opposite the TIC. Again this is certainly not cyclist friendly. Anyway, I'm sure these comments won't be considered nor actioned but I just thought I'd share.

Message: Riverside North looks fantastic. Would like to see some very well hidden, very subtle. Blend in designed covered/sheltered areas too, otherwise sudden downpours would result in few options other than loads of people sat in their cars.



Message: Riverside Plan There are many things I like in the plan and commend the hard work. The plan is, however, fundamentally flawed in that it works on set of assumptions that is not commensurate with the climate emergency or the ecological breakdown now in process. This is because it's value hierarchy is: business, tourists, residents, ecology and climate. In order to draw up a better plan you need to reverse that hierarchy then re-vision your plan. The first consideration should be ecology and climate. Then residents, followed by tourists then business. For example, The proposal of extending the Fisherman's Car Park illustrates a lack of consideration for climate and ecology. It ignores a wealth of evidence that shows more car facilities leads to greater volume of traffic. It fails to account for the carbon and pollution increase from more vehicles. Worryingly denotes the extension area as scrubland and fails to see it is actually wild land. It is unaware that sustainable low carbon, low pollution transport links for residents are needed. Reversing the values hierarchy would lead to much more imaginative use of taxpayers money. For example, no car park instead use that budget line on an extension of the cycle lane to caravan park. Negotiate with caravan park to use the river crossing in order to create a cycle route for Tiddington and Alveston residents to cycle, walk and ebike to and from town. Thereby reducing car journeys and pollution whilst increasing health, fitness and well being. Adding traffic lights at Ingon Lane to give safe crossing of the Warwick road to give access to the cycle lane to residents from the Snitterfield area. Repurpose part of the Leisure Centre car park for bikes only, a bike hire business and recharging e-bikes. So in this example, it is climate and ecology that leads the way. Then resident's health and well being. Tourists will be able to explore the nearby areas on bike. Businesses in the wider area will benefit from our tourists. The whole of current plan needs redrawing to be informed by a district climate and ecological emergency plan to encourage local buy in from all stakeholders. (This is sadly lacking at the moment.) Finally, this type of consultation is out of date. We need to move beyond having to ratify a plan drawn up by solely the local great and the good, and the business elite. There are so many examples of good practice up and down the country where planners work with local stakeholders to create a plan that meets the needs of a much wider constituency than this current one encompasses. If that process is forthcoming I am happy to assist.

Message: Riverside queries I understand that Warwickshire Wildlife Trust have just submitted a survey of this area confirming there are multiple habitats for many species of flora and fauna, including rare varieties of both and have recommended the area be upgraded from a Local Wildlife Site to a Local Nature Reserve, managed by them. 1. Please can you confirm that data from this survey has informed your plans for this site and that wildlife trust are satisfied that your plans don't threaten any of these habitats or rare species? 2. Can you reassure me that Warwickshire wild life trust are content that your plans are not damaging this area ? 3. Please confirm how the addition of a new car park will not damage this area - there is a large carpark at the leisure centre which appears to be under used? 4. Will the comments about this plan be made public?

Message: Seems to be a waste of money, another park and ride fiasco in the offing. If you develop a natural area you will be harming wildlife! Not happy about car park fees at Fisherman's car park, as a regular user want to see concessions!!

Message: So long as bio-diversity and wildlife habitats can be maintained or even enhanced I would be in favour of this scheme and particularly the idea of a nature reserve at Warwick Road Lands as I feel this would accord with the Town Trust's mission of 'To provide financial or other support for activities which enhance the quality of life of the people of Stratford-upon-Avon'. However the District Council's standpoint would appear to contradict this. Councillor Jefferson's input to the explanatory video concentrates solely on visitors and the dependency of (too) many of the town's businesses e.g. hotels and restaurants on them. I also noted that Quentin Wilson mentioned visitors before the residents of Stratford-upon-Avon. Whilst visitors should be welcomed I do not believe that they should be the target audience. Therefore I would be against any accompanying over commercialisation. The idea of river taxis is a prime example of this. What would be the point of improving the Warwick Road Lands landscape, then encouraging people to bypass it. The Warwick Road Lands are perfectly accessible from the Leisure Centre end so I would also be against any additional car parking. Local media reports have suggested that this is not set in stone (or concrete) but all three of Quentin Wilson, Councillor Jefferson and Sara Ashby mention easing town centre traffic as a prime benefit. I believe that human nature is such that people want to park as near to their final destination as possible. The failure of Stratford's 'park and ride' facilities demonstrate this. Places where out of town parking works are those with no in town parking and/or traffic free centres

Message: Sounds like a great idea in theory. Car park charges would be a shame. Me and my kids swam here regularly over the summer and hope any development wouldn't get in the way of that.

Message: South side seems a good idea as it's farmland but the proposals for the fisherman's car park area look horrendous and will destroy the fantastic wildlife haven turning it into an overpopulated sterile area. Upgrades to some paths and the access into the water are sensible but don't ruin the area with additional charged parking and overuse of an excellent wildlife area,

Message: Southern part is fine. My worry is the concept of the redeveloped north section. It is done well but is replacing a naturally rewilded environment with an artificial natural environment. Basically turning a wild space into a managed space. We are surrounded by managed spaces even in the countryside and this is somewhere accessible but natural. Too much has been lost already. We should be rewilding more, and this sort of project seems to be counter to that.

Message: Special modern landscape approach

Message: Splendid idea! I particularly like the swimming area. It will relieve pressure on traffic coming into town and create a wonderful resource for locals.

Message: Stratford desperately needs upgraded facilities to support the town, we are a tourist town, nothing will change that unless you decide to send old Bill off somewhere else. Improving access to the town is critical to support business, which are largely depended to visitors and not locals, and more importantly to give residents an opportunity to actually be able to use the river. In today's day an age environmental concerns can be safely managed. Don't give in to the social media brigade!

Message: Stratford does not need this natural flood plain to be developed. The area currently provides a free amenity to the public of car parking, walking, wild swimming and the launching of small boats and paddle boards. It is well used but does not warrant extension to the level proposed. There is also not need for a cycle track, Enough cyclists do not live along the Warwick Road to make the commute. Leave something, that isn't broken alone and leave the people of Stratford with something that works for us.

Message: Stratford upon Avon Riverside Development Comments: We support a development of some description in the area between the Fisherman's Car Park and Town. We would wish to support projects that help the economy and the employment prospects of the less well paid in Town, whilst at the same time improving the town to the benefit of all residents. The current outline plans do not appear achievable on the budget of approx. £2 million quoted. There are also costs of ongoing maintenance to consider. We are concerned that there is a danger the whole project is not achievable and therefore the overall aims are not met. There is a danger that the car park will be built with no more funding available to provide other parts of the plan e.g., development of the nature area to provide a circular river walk and space for safe jogging for locals and the added attraction of an accessible open space and walk for visitors. We are concerned that the potential to keep traffic out of town, and to have a positive impact on the local economy is not proven. Questions: Who is going to pay for the roundabout needed to ensure safe entry and exit from Fisherman's Car Park? The project is not sensible without traffic control. Will there be a sufficient footfall for the private sector to want to get involved and provide 'green' means of getting to town? E.g., electric scooters, mini train. Parking must cost considerably less than in town for Fisherman's Car Park to be the preferred option for many. Footpaths have to be lit if they are to be used in the evening to access theatre and restaurants. Is this compatible with statements about encouraging a wildlife sanctuary? The potential link with Welcombe Hills is interesting but would require a footbridge. Also, the public footpath to the Hills is 1.12 km along the Warwick Road from the Fisherman's car park.

Message: Strongly disagree with the extension of the Fisherman's Car park. There is plenty of parking in Stratford, with no need to ruin more nature area. This year, more than others, we have learnt how important nature and open spaces are. Let's put nature, and people's well-being and mental health, as a priority. Certainly should be considered more important than making a car park, that is not needed in Stratford. Sure Stratford district council can find other ways to try and make more money.

Message: Sunday 31st January 2021 Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment on the use of a grant for Stratford upon Avon. I have been a resident in Stratford for 20 years and was born and grew up just 7 miles away. Stratford has always felt like home and I love the river and the green space we have and I wouldn't consider living anywhere else. I love the buzz of the town in tourist season and I am happy to share my town with the many visitors we receive. I have studied the vision you propose carefully and I have also read the Wildlife Trust report and I would like to see the following.

1. Create a vision with the stakeholders, people like myself, who use this area 12 months of the year. So far the vision appears to have been created by the local elite and not the general public. This is frankly bad practise not to involve stakeholders at the concept stage. I can only hope that this consultation will guide the vision and is not merely a marketing tool.
2. In my mind the main focus of any vision in this area must be the ecology. This beautiful area has luckily remained untouched for moreover 30 years and we now have the opportunity to turn this into a stunning, managed wildlife area. Not a over run tourist theme park please.
3. I am against 500 car parking spaces being built on North. You may have seen a huge increase in visitors to the existing car park in the Summer and you may think that there will be some income to be had. I disagree as I believe these spaces will lie dormant throughout Winter. I also believe that the visitors will not walk into town as it is too far. I spend a great deal of time at that car park and this Summer 90% of families got out of their car and walked onto the grass and got their deckchairs out. I would be happy to do surveys for you this Summer where we could get accurate information on whether enough people (visitors) would use the path into town.
4. I am against the development of Fisherman's carpark to support watersports and electric taxi's and bikes. We have had electric bike schemes before in Stratford that have failed, and again there is no evidence to support that visitors would use them from here. Again a survey/questionnaire conducted over the Summer months would identify if this service would be worth the investment. I'm not sure what you are suggesting by watersports but as an area of wildlife this would need to be very much limited to non powered watersports. An electric taxi service might be interesting but again survey's would need to take place to consider the current boat traffic and whether additional traffic would affect the wildlife.
5. Finally I would like to suggest that the vision improves the cycle lanes for residents, not tourists. Connecting Tiddington, via the caravan park bridge, and Snitterfield with cycle lanes for their enjoyment and safety would be far better for Stratford upon Avon as they can be continued to be used 12 months a year.
6. Finally I really do support a vision of Riverside which puts wildlife first, followed by residents, followed by business and tourists. I would like to be a part of that vision and look forward to working with you on how best we can develop our green space together. I might not be Quentin Wilson, I am just a care worker, but I live here and my opinion matters. We need a collective decision on how Riverside is developed. One of my client lives (redacted) and every morning at 8am we drive down to Fishermans carpark and sit in the car and watch the river activity. We see geese, ducks, and have been keenly watching the 3 signets that live there grow up. Last week we saw a cormorant diving and last Thursday I came face to face with a muntjac on a dog walk. This area is incredible, we are so lucky to have it and I know so many people who love it like I do. All I ask is you let us decide what we do with it...its out town after all. With kind regards (name redacted)

Message: THE "GREEN" CORRIDOR FROM NORTH TO SOUTH & PROPOSED CARPARK AREA Any sizeable car park extension at the proposed site off the Fisherman's car park would be expensive to install and upkeep, not least as it is on a flood plain. It would also require a road traffic island on the Warwick Road along with the associated lighting, or traffic lights. All expensive additions. The car park itself will need some form of floodlighting for safety purposes, resulting in significant light pollution in the surrounding area. It is highly doubtful that this would prove popular with either neighbouring Tiddington Road residents or environmentalists. The provision of toilets at this location would be appreciated. This area would not warrant any permanent building for catering as it would only be viable through a very limited part of the year. A vast majority of the people that use this carpark do so because its free parking! If a charge was levied you would find that the carpark would be little used. So I would suggest that if it were envisaged to charge for parking there would be little call for a larger area to be used than existing. For half the year or more the carpark is little used. Although there has been great usage throughout the recent lockdowns, there is little evidence to suggest this would continue post-Covid. An infinitely preferable option, as included in the plans, is that of a slip road off the Warwick Road into the rear of the Leisure Centre car park, encouraging traffic to use an existing and underused car park while still keeping a great deal of visiting traffic outside the main town centre. The loss of habitats would be minimal and the Leisure Centre car park offers a much better site for EV charging points, given the existing proximity of an electricity supply. Electric Charging Points for Electric Cars on a car park this far out of town would be counter productive. As an owner of an electric car, I know that they are ideal for use in town. We should preserve all of the in town parking because in 10 years when most of the cars are electric we will need the visitors to come into town to spend the money!! The visitor will go to towns where they can get parking. Today the town is empty and places like the Maybird centre are packed, ostensibly because parking is free and the shops are in close proximity. Alcester as a small town is doing very well because people can pop in, park (for free) and leave again conveniently- like the Maybird.

Maximisation of the use of the car parks at the Leisure Centre, Bishopton Park and Ride and Rosebird centre should be given priority attention before decimating an invaluable area of green space and habitats without any evidence to suggest it would be viable.

THE BATHING AREA This has been popular for many years and now even on busy days not as heavily used as in the past. There is plenty of grassed area for everybody to enjoy themselves and this needs little attention. To cut a semi-enclosed area for swimming as on the plan I think would be little used and is not called for. If you are encouraging people to swim in such an area it would cause its own Health and Safety and Insurance problems. In addition, consultation with the current bathers show that they prefer the 'open swimming' aspect of the river and would not make use of a dedicated and sanitised 'bathing area'. An additional issue that would arise in the proposed bathing area would be seepage of toxic water from the old tip on the higher ground- evidence of this can be found in the water courses around the site and to negate it would be expensive and time-consuming.

THE NATURALISED AREA This is the section from the hedge ending the bathing area, across from the river to the Warwick Road and down to the Leisure Centre and Hotel. This area has "gone back to nature" as shown in the recent Warwickshire County Council eco-survey. The area was well planted with mixed trees and shrubs, I think in the late 70s, with a main track running from the Fishermans Car Park to the back of the Leisure Centre and a continuation of riverside foot path from the rear of the now Pashley Factory Cycle Shop to above the bathing area. There were three link paths joining these two main tracks. One running from the Skateboard Park to just above the wooden bridge on the river side walk and still in use. The middle path of the three runs from the gate on the rear of the Leisure Centre Car Park over a purpose made footbridge to the Riverside walk this path is gravelled in places. The third path runs past a pool and reed bed and has a stone seat placed appropriately to view the pool. These paths are mostly overgrown through lack of upkeep. This area is used and enjoyed by numerous visitors and locals alike and only needs regular maintenance- not the expenditure of a great deal of money putting in new paths etc. The thought, effort and investment in this area in the past is just coming into fruition and a good tidying up is all that is needed with more rubbish bins appropriately

sited and serviced. **THE RECREATION GROUND** The Recreation Ground suits its purpose well and is enjoyed by all and useful for larger activities such as River Festival. The carpark here is very well used but has one big drawback, the exit onto A34, at Bridgefoot. If this exit to the bridge was closed and exit made back through a larger extended carpark (see below) and on to the Island at the end of Seven Meadows Road this would ease the traffic on Clopton Bridge keeping the traffic moving in this busy area. **A LARGER CARPARK** The area between the Island on Seven Meadows Road the Tramway and the Games Pitches could be utilised as quite a large unseen carpark connecting through to the existing that with a row of willows strategically placed would be hidden. Within easy walking reach of the town centre and no main roads to cross. This would be a great asset to the town, especially given the ongoing explosion of building around Long Marston and Meon Vale which will continue to lead to more and more shoppers and visitors entering the town from the direction. A carpark here would be far more financially and ecologically beneficial to the town on the east side of the River. Serving the A34, Banbury and Evesham roads that are all well connected to this island. (name redacted)

Message: The additional development of the area will be detrimental to the existing wildlife and surrounding habitat

Message: The area contains a known landfill waste site. What work has been done to assess the physical and chemical content?

Message: The bid is contradictory. If you are serious about reducing traffic in Stratford then make the park and train/bus free. That site is huge and is never at capacity. Stop the cars there before they head to the Rec. It is terrible that this isn't already the case. Creating this leisure zone might be a good idea but it is going to be a destination in itself, bringing more cars and traffic to the area. Again the bid is contradictory, more cars means more pollution not a reduction in it. Sticking a couple of EV chargers might be all the rage but 99% of the cars that will be visiting in the next 20 years will be petrol or diesel. The Fishermans carpark area floods a lot so the big car park idea doesn't make sense. Also, if you put a carpark on the grass there where will the leisure development/ lido stuff be? The scrubland is a bit barren, I can see better management could create a nature hotspot there if you are serious about that. It would be nice to have better walks there too, nature trails etc. I like the idea of a leisure park but call it what it is, don't try to pass it as green policy. And also consider the impact on the river itself please. It is a natural habitat. The boats need to be electric not diesel to prevent impact on the water quality and fish need to be protected and space for angling needs to be included. Make this something inclusive that everyone can be proud of not something we will come to regret and argue over and marginalise pockets of existing users. And consider local residents. New jobs in the area is welcome. Increased stress on resources is not, the Warwick Road is a nightmare in summer when events are on the queue into town reaches Fishermans car park, so how will you manage this? Lots of unanswered questions really. I look forward to seeing how this develops. Good luck.

Message: The biodiversity this area offers, its multiple habitats and its natural floodplain management are wonderful and ample ecosystem services. Understanding and managing the existing areas is what is needed, not more development. Stratford needs to make better use of its existing underused carparks and neglected tourist offers and not just build more.

Message: The car park. This will not get any busier, its only been busy this year because of covid, but it will increase theft from cars ,more rubbish, and more bad parking. Electric water taxis, electric bike hire ,it might be possible for 3months of the year but that would be it. it's a joke.

Message: The development must address the issue of safe cycling routes around the town and across the river. As a resident and nervous cyclist I would love to be able to come into the town on my bike and to cycle around the riverside area for exercise. I also think that we need off-road cycling areas for children and families. We have a great resource in the "Greenway" but this does not join safely with the town centre or the riverside. The Riverside development could address this and make sensible safe routes between the lovely green spaces.

Message: The fisherman's car park and surrounding area is diverse natural habitat. It should be preserved as a nature reserve not further developed. Why would anyone park there to access town?! Why not make better use of the redundant park and ride facility

Message: The fisherman's car park should link to the greenway to cater for safe cycling, it would be easy to accomplish this and provide a great facility for families all riding bikes. It would be great if the fisherman's car park had a small cafe to get a coffee and light snack.

Message: The Fisherman's Car Park should only be extended. This is not the place for a day- facto park and ride as a car based increase in usage here will have detrimental impact on Lench's Meadow which must be developed as an area of rich bio-diversity. Any development here should be 'green'. Non tarmac parking surface, parked cars hidden by trees. The bathing area could be reinstated but changing rooms and toilets problematic This ignored rubbish tip has just done its own thing but could with sympathetic management provide an all year round habitat for an enhanced range of insects and wild life. Interestingly scrub trees have not grown here so has the rubbish tip prevented that natural development? If possible I would like part of this area to have tree cover, part a 4 seasons flower meadow Parking should be on an extended Leisure Centre car par with access off the Warwick Road. A children's Eco play area, skate boarding, bike track should be in this area not on the meadow. There should A cycle track to the Warwick Road side for access to Fisherman's. Electric Boat for access would be a good idea. Around the leisure centre area there could be eco business, advice, activity centre The Leisure Centre Car park area needs to have trees shading the parked cars and increasing our tree cover A walkway through from this side of the river to join with the Bancroft and Rec needs some careful and in notice thought as both the river and busy road present a barrier The Rev has many plans afoot which will provide more activity here. Lucy's Mill Bridge comes into play if we are serious about connectivity and access. It is dangerously overcrowded at times, a heavily used but inadequate bridge. The onion field could be the jewel in the crown here. A wooded area concealing a country park style car park with wetlands development in the flood plain This could become the balance attraction to Shakespeare in the town. Gently commercial to provide just maintenance costs but the real value should be to nature and securing the planets future as well as attracting residents and visitors to the town to support vibrancy and jobs. A difficult balance but one that must be found.

Message: The following are points that may be worth raising –

1. How does this fit in with the SOA vision? Difficult to answer as there is no tangible vision. There are however some significant protection guidelines in the NDP Policies NE2 and CLW3 regarding the river frontage and the lands adjacent.
2. How does this fit in with town parking strategy? Under theme 1 in the NDP there is focus on long stay car parking provision on out of centre locations, including Park and Ride, whilst retaining short stay parking within central areas. The STS infers similar under policy 4 of their report.
3. How about some measurable supporting evidence of benefits for most of the 6 considered issues - economic, environmental (pollution, congestion), social, revitalisation, improved quality. On a tactical front and assuming there are answers/solutions to the above then there are key challenges -

1. The north site needs to be handled very carefully with a minimum of change. Attracting more footfall can lead to scenes at Fishermans Pool this summer which resembled a mini Benidorm with associated traffic chaos. (Parking strategy?)
2. The choice of what to offer must be constrained to avoid 'blow out'. The current plan would most certainly achieve blow out.
3. Improving access along the river appears to be a priority to enhance current use and introduce cycle paths. Access and 'man made' leisure attractions elsewhere are dubious and would appear to be against NDP guidelines, refer above.
4. The south section is more suitable for multiple activity provision as it already is a 'man made' area. However, the generated traffic will need to be considered within a transport/parking strategy.
5. Access along the complete length of river frontage should be the aim for both pedestrians and cyclists.
6. The essential central area crossing of the A3400, to provide connectivity, will be a challenge without affecting its traffic flows, unless a transport vision is to reduce existing motorised traffic flow. The onward connections at both ends of the proposal will have to be indicated to allow realistic communication rather than just a merry go round. This will be significant for future choices of transport modes in the project area.

General discussion So, we have in isolation, yet again, a major scheme, making ambitious beneficial claims with no evidence base. This scheme like major schemes before in SOA, eg proposed footbridge near theatre, Birmingham Road proposed improvements, suffer from inability to place them into context of an overall vision for Stratford. I fear that this scheme could suffer the same fate as that of the footbridge (that was fully funded) because it is not being presented with the proper process. We should be in a better position to achieve this now with the comparatively new neighbourhood plan for Stratford, (NDP) and the Stratford Transport Strategy, (STS). However, neither of these provide a vision for the overall structure and operation of the town. They give at best, generic statements such as 'better place to live,' 'free from congestion', use of more sustainable materials, and a few specific recommendations with no context to an overall structure. This proposal is likely to create significantly higher footfall, significant parking demand/ pollution, significant changes to habitat, significant river usage/choice and partition, significant maintenance management needs of land and water assets (on going costs). The crossing connecting north to south sections across the A34 appears to be a vital link for connectivity and is a major hurdle/constraint. The proposal will be undermined without such a link combined with no provision for routes to the north and the south of the scheme.



Message: The following quote is from Levi Fox, The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust: A Personal Memoir (1997). "... the Trustees felt it their duty in 1968 to oppose the application of the South Warwickshire Sports Trust for planning permission to build a sports centre on riverside land along the Warwick road. ... the Trustees felt strongly that this area of green meadowland by the river should be preserved as open space , and that a building of the scale and design proposed would be seriously out of keeping with the background and general character of Stratford. In view of the far-reaching implications raised by the sports centre project, the Trustees suggested that a Public Inquiry should be held to examine all aspects of it. An Inquiry, which lasted three weeks, was accordingly held in the Town Hall in January 1969. The Trustees' case was ably presented by Mr. Stephen Brown, QC, and the hearing aroused considerable interest, focussing attention on the issue of conservation with particular reference to riverside meadowland on the Warwick road. The outcome was that the Minister decided to refuse the application to build the projected sports centre. The Trustees were particularly pleased, because in his official report he endorsed the Trust's point of view that "to develop this Warwick Road frontage so far beyond the urban fringe would destroy the open and rural approach to this historic town, which is so much a part of our national heritage and held in world-wide esteem as a cultural and tourist centre". I think that the meadowland should be protected as a reserve for wildlife.

Message: The font on the Concept Landscape Design note is too pale and therefore hardly legible. It does not aid those with eyesight problems. Please address this so everyone can have clear sight of the proposals.

Message: The infrastructure is not in place to support more traffic flow at weekends. You are missing an opportunity here to reduce traffic on the one way system.

Message: The main thrust of any change (and we prefer it as it is) should be to promote and enhance the fauna and flora already established. This could include introduction of wildlife habitats (bird and bat boxes etc, planting wild flower areas and tree planting and tree maintenance initiatives). The project should also resist any commercialisation e.g. refreshment sites, but should include a discreet toilet facility. It would be inappropriate to introduce a large car park on this site and we feel a car park should not exceed total of 100 car places max. Having a car park of more than 100 spaces could cause untoward traffic conditions as the entrance is on a bend in the road on an already busy location. A large car park would detract from the beauty and nature of a wildlife area. Multiple electric car charging points are not needed at this location but are badly needed in central car parks and possibly on street. We believe that enlarging the car park and facilities will not significantly reduce the number of vehicles heading to the town centre. Shoppers, tourists/visitors and theatre goers will want to park as near to the town as they can get, despite higher parking charges. People will use the fisherman's car park to specially enjoy a wildlife location and walks, not so much to catch a bus or boat into town to shop or meet friends. New, additional visitors attracted to the facility are likely to be local and from areas 1-2hrs distance from Stratford. Shakespeare visitors will be unlikely to have time to explore this area. Encouraging a swimming pool area could require changing rooms, disturb the current river bird population (a regular swan family meat here year in year) and present a danger from boating activities (e.g. it is used as a turning point for river cruisers, rowing and motor boats) So preserve, protect and promote what is there.

Message: The new Fishermans car park is shown incorrectly - 500 cars would cover 4-5 acres is that amount of tarmac necessary? Access into the car park would be dangerous. Currently the northern area is a rich ecological and biodiverse part of Stratford and is unique. It lies in a dedicated flood plain which floods every year on more than one occasion. There are otters, deer, bats, water vole, kingfishers, herons, badgers and many more threatened species. The proposals would seem to sanitise a large proportion of the current habitat. The introduction of bicycles, motorised vehicle and scooters would make this area more like a play park rather than a wild life habitat whereas the southern extension to Seven Meadows Road makes far more sense. The introduction of a new access of this road to a new car park and links to the existing car park would obviate the current issues of access on Swans Nest Lane and would not effect a wildlife habitat as this is currently a ploughed field. It is clear that the Council would wish to charge to park in the new Fishermans car park and the idea of people parking there and walking into town will not work. Clear examples of this failure are the two park and rides one at Bishopton and one at Waitrose. The idea also of a river taxi will be detrimental to the existing leisure boats which currently go down from town to the Fishermans car park. Given this area floods providing any facilities such as cafes will not be viable and will not be approved by the Environment Agency and will not be financially viable anyway. The encouragement of river swimming is both fraught with problems. Originally it ceased due to Polio outbreaks and currently you can suffer from Weils disease. There is also danger from the numerous boats which ply the river both by operators and amateurs. The idea you would constrain swimmers into the 'pond' is unsustainable. The many pathways planned seem to include cyclists of all types on all thus leading to danger as cyclists approach from behind. The area is presently primarily used by dog walkers and pedestrians and for their safety some paths should be segregated. In conclusion we believe the southern area extending the current recreation ground and improvements to car parking there and Lucys Mill Bridge would benefit the town more with people more likely to use the town centre shops and facilities. The northern area should be left as a wild life reserve with its unique habitat. If the current Leisure Centre Car Park is not big enough at 300 spaces perhaps that should be extended. One of the key issues is there is a very poor link from the northern area to the southern area with a bottle neck at the current pelican crossing on the north side of Clopton Bridge which is where the problems with traffic congestion occur now. The current funding is totally inadequate and a 500 space car park alone will cost £2Million. The money would be better spent in a more viable way in the town centre which is suffering terribly. We thought the presentation videos were poor and for your information we do not have a cathedral and therefore we do not have city status which was continually referred to.

Message: The north riverside is a rich and biodiverse habitat - it's not a blank canvas by any definition. It needs conserving if a rewinding approach is followed very few trees would need to be planted as nature is quite capable of providing what is needed if we stop constantly bulldozer if it

Message: The Northern Area from the leisure centre to beyond the Fisherman's Car Park is a unique wild area within the Stratford boundary. The proposals here will just turn it into an extension of the "Rec". Putting a 500 space car park, cafe, play areas, access, etc. will ruin it forever. Many local people use it at the moment for walking, swimming, fishing, canoeing, any "improvements" will take away the fallen wood and undergrowth which encourage wildlife and are just aimed at getting more and more tourists into a town already overcrowded at peak times. Put these schemes downstream and leave the North area wild as it has been for years

Message: The Old Bathing Place is one of the few places with easy access to wild swimming in a relatively clean stretch of the Avon. I live in Leamington Spa and cycle to Stratford-upon-Avon for this activity. (The river near us is not so clean.) The public transportation options are better than they are in some countries but could be much better--it is a rather long cycle ride for a swim. For people like me who do not own a car, greater accessibility is not about car parks! Managing the space for species diversity and diversity of uses compatible with its wild, open and green quality should be a priority. Extending carparks (however "sensitive") into remaining patches of wild habitat is not compatible with this priority. Electric cars are not a solution, or only part of the solution, to the climate crisis. (Electricity still needs to be generated.) Behaviour and social values also need to (and will, perforce) change. The private automobile is a dead end: people will travel less and invest more in their communities and in an existential solidarity with regional life-support systems. Tourism will play a smaller role in the town's economy a decade hence. Stratford-upon-Avon should demonstrate its commitment to a sustainable future by investing in green public transportation options and in regional planning sensitive to integrated ecological values, which include planning and managing for extreme climate change-induced events (flooding, drought, species extinction, ongoing pandemics) and thinking with the watershed, which includes coordinating with and managing upstream uses which include the ValeFresco agricultural operation, livestock farming, and other industrial operations. The current plan is all about the "Stratford" in Stratford-upon-Avon, and about extending rather than transforming its priorities, while a plan alert to the crisis we have entered needs to be much more about the "Avon" in Stratford-upon-Avon and about a thorough transformation of how Stratford and the Avon interrelate and of how both will function in a warming climate.

Message: The plan encompasses two very different areas, and whilst I appreciate some merits of creating a corridor it is contrived to call it such, as one has to enter the edge of town to travel from one area to the other, crossing busy roads. The comments section should enable comments on the Fishermans and the Riverside Rec area to be made separately throughout. I support the plan for the Rec, which is a delightful "groomed" space as befits its use. Increasing the car parking at the Fishermans site to 500 spaces will hardly touch the problems in the town, extra parking should be off the Birmingham road and the park and ride better supported by the authorities and promoted. How will the Fishermans site "preserve existing habitats" By fencing? and the phrase "get closer to nature" how will this happen ? As for "economic benefits"? after the construction time very few jobs will be created. An increase in "dwell time" is very desirable however that needs facilities which in a floodplain quite difficult to achieve. Which brings me to my final point, "restoring and improving drainage is an important of the project" where would this water go? How is it possible to reduce the impact of millions of litres of water in a floodplain deliberately retained for this purpose. Even with a budget many times bigger I consider this virtually impossible

Message: The plan for the Fishermans carpark is completely unacceptable. This beautiful wild area with an abundance of wildlife will be ruined. How can extending the now free carpark to one that will take up to 500 cars that will be charged for, be ok on a flood plain? To say nothing of the building of toilets, play area etc. This area so loved by locals whether for walking, fishing or swimming which will be impossible with the increase of people and cars. The disruption of the wildlife while this awful plan is built will never fully recover. The idea that the parking will improve traffic and air quality on the Warwick Road is madness. The traffic will be made worse while cars que to get in and out backing up even further than it does now! There is ample parking behind the leisure centre as well as the white elephant that is the park and ride on the Birmingham Road. To encourage the parking behind the leisure centre why not spend the money to build a slip road to the carpark. This would definitely help with the traffic on the Warwick Road as it would also help to reduce the traffic on the gyratory. Please DO NOT CONTINUE WITH THIS PLAN. To spoil what is now a lovely unspoilt meandering riverside walk through a beautiful wild area full of wildlife. As a local I don't want to have hoards of people spoiling this lovely walk frightening away nature at its best. We will mourn the loss of this wildlife habitat is this goes ahead.

Message: The plans for the Rev, and southern part of the plan looks good, but the area around the fishermen's car park has a sensitive and interesting ecology and therefore this area needs very sensitive handling and should not become a theme park or have too many visitors trampling all over it damaging the ecology. The expansion of the fisherman's car park to 500 spaces is way too many and should be reduced in size and needs to be ecologically designed.

Message: The plans to develop the northern part of the riverside are far too extensive considering the existing natural environment and biodiversity of the area. I swim regularly in the river by The Fishermans car park, I find it a tranquil place in an unspoilt setting, which is essential to the experience of wild swimming. In its present state riverside north offers a special place where local people can enjoy walking swimming or fishing without any tourist attractions. This wild and natural area is crucial for the mental and physical health of many people in the community who seek somewhere more peaceful away from the busy tourist routes near the centre of town. If the proposed scheme were to go ahead I would consider it to be the destruction of the areas important biodiversity and its natural ambience, to be replaced by commercial and artificial installations such as a café, maze, zip wire, and electric lighting for the car park, which are not in keeping with the environment, and not conducive to the peaceful atmosphere of The Fishermans Carpark. Scrubland and natural hedges should not be classified as unutilised land because it is used by the wildlife and the people who enjoy it. Preserving these untouched areas provides habitat to insects and other animals. It is something we all should respect and treasure. I would like to see it preserved as a conservation area without the intrusion of too many cars and tourists. I am concerned that a car park for 500 cars and subsequent footfall would turn the area into a busy bypass for access to the town. I think a better alternative would be to utilize the carpark behind the leisure centre for access into the town, and to the riverside north via trails and paths, providing an interesting direction for anyone seeking something more tranquil in a natural setting. Any development to the riverside north should be sympathetic to the natural environment that already exists. There is a history of the river being used for swimming, and is something that could be preserved as part of the experience when visiting the area, as well as the variety of plants and animal inherent in the landscape. Acceptable interventions would be tree planting, conservation management and maybe renovation to the riverside where the 'Old Bathing Place' used to be. Picnic tables that don't encroach into the wild areas would be ok, and if needed, only mobile catering.

Message: The project is only aimed at the visitors not the residents, anyone who wants to jog is already doing so, same as for walking. They would not wish to see the wildlife destroyed and more carparks. If you want to revive Stratford Town have you considered reducing business rates to help the shopkeeper and offering free parking in the town / reduced parking fees. That would allow the shopper to browse the shops in the town rather than thinking of their parking ticket. I hope you do consult the residents and Environment agencies before going ahead

Message: The proposed development is not about biodiversity or providing amenities for local people but purely a new way of making more money from visitors/tourists. Yet again the flood plain management will over rule by fiscal gain.

Message: The proposed North Riverside development appears to be basically a new park and walk(ride) scheme to facilitate SDC selling off a town centre car park for redevelopment. The car park will completely destroy the untouched scrub and bio diverse land which occupies the flood plane between the existing car park and the caravan holiday park and will exacerbate not alleviate, current traffic congestion on the Birmingham Road. No consideration has been given for example, as to how 500 cars are going to turn right across a busy traffic route to leave the site. As part of any large car park scheme significant and costly flood alleviation measures would have to be introduced further degrading the current riverside ecological environment. No consideration of these measures are included in the consultation document or how they will be paid for. For the leisure use of the site as currently planned it will require wholesale clearance of the existing fauna and flora to free up meaningful space for the large number of people the scheme is hoping to attract, as per the current recreation ground use. It will destroy the current bio diverse nature of the area and create over time a sterile gassed park. It is simply not realistic to state that you intend to create an improved ecological space and then introduce large numbers of people and various leisure activities, structures, associated noise, and all that brings, i.e. see the current state of the recreation ground the morning after a hot day. Any existing wildlife will be adversely affected including the noted presence of otters on the upper Avon reach ,yes they have been seen very early in the morning!, nesting swans and other animals will be affected and their current breeding sites disturbed. No consideration has been given to the cost and management of the site to prevent antisocial behaviour. There has been no direct consultation with current well established river users and businesses, i.e. Avon Boating, Stratford Rowing Club, Pleasure Cruise businesses, or narrow boat user associations. The river is, at the current time, extremely well used for both business, leisure and sport, no consideration or analysis has been made of the effects of increased use on current users and the capacity of the river to absorb any increase, and the inherent increased safety risk this will produce, especially from encouraging more swimmers who will not restrict themselves to a small artificial channel but swim in the main river. At the moment the river use works well and the car park is well used (because in part it is free), all as a result of mutually respected needs of the various river users, including swimmers, but there is a careful balance to be maintained. Evidence about how this scheme will improve the economy of the Town or create new jobs is at best spurious as Stratford is never short of visitors in normal times and it is questionable that new visitors will be attracted to Stratford on the basis of this scheme as currently proposed.

Message: The reduction of fishing pegs is an alarming prospect. As a disabled man this one of the very few areas of the river that is safe and accessible for the Disabled Angler. Further containing enjoyment ,wellbeing and mental recovery

Message: The slow move to eliminate any activity in the countryside grows. In the future only dog walkers will be on the banks. The river with no use will deteriorate into an over grown waste

Message: The town created a park and ride facility that cost council tax payers a huge amount. That facility is not used and the enforcement of that is not upheld by the town council. The planning should be about cutting car use in the town not increasing parking spaces and collecting the revenue. The town has no identity and has fallen behind in recent years. We now see an empty high street due to high rents and business that cannot manage these rents, with so many retail spaces left unoccupied the town feels a soulless place with a bleak future. Council tax rates are high and for people like myself I use very little of the services on offer and feel let down totally by the council! I live (redacted) and the amount of litter and plastic gloves that blow into my front and rear garden from their premises is ridiculous, in one day I had 14 used plastic gloves in my front garden, if you walk up Banbury road you will see a huge amount of litter and used gloves floating around, a lot of which ends up in the river! They have also installed recently an electric car charging point, since it's installation over three months ago I have only seen 1 person using this!! So for the council to spend my tax payers money on even more of these things is a disgrace. The council should be concentrating on improving the traffic situation and enforcing a park and ride option for visitors to the town. The plans laid out in this proposal will cost a lot of money that will end up in the same place as the current park and ride facility, unused, not enforced, not policed and left to rack and ruin. As a resident of Stratford I hope someone in the council reads this and takes note of my suggestions

Message: The Warwick road coming into Stratford is already heavily congested every Saturday, creating more vehicles slowing down and turning across oncoming traffic into the Lido/fisherman's carpark will only increase this and cause a new accident blackspot, the traffic often reaches Oxtails farm and the Snitterfield turning `Ingon lane` in the summer months and bank holidays and town events it backs up even further , adding a new carpark attraction will further increase traffic onto this congested road, how can more cars crawling into Stratford be anything but more pollution and poor air quality. The two carparks, park and rides are an abysmal failure which the council should apologise for and the money wasted could have been better used. The lido area and surrounding fields are a flood plain and natural, more tarmac will only increase flooding onto the road, a small extension to the car park would be sufficient, and maybe a new entrance /exit, as a fisherman I find it difficult enough to access parking here as it is, in the summer evenings it can be a quite intimidating area with large groups drinking and barbecuing if it becomes a tourist attraction it will not benefit locals. This will not alleviate any traffic for Stratford the Birmingham road is a mess which needs sorting out first as traffic heading for the rec from Birmingham and Redditch congest all the way to the gyratory. Its fine for Quentin Wilson to walk into town. Why not use the large underused carpark by the leisure centre and extend that to the river

Message: There is nothing at all to like about this overblown project. The area is perfect as it is and supports a relatively rich ecosystem. Any development will only reduce its Ecological value. The Rec is sufficient 'managed' space in town. What we need are clever ways to reduce day trippers who spend little and encourage higher spending visitors. This project won't contribute anything. It might make money for landowners but that is not a reason to support.

Message: There is reason that this is a floodplain. It's for flood water. Reclaiming it means more water downstream. The car parks in the town will continue to used whatever goes on outside Stratford as people are inherently lazy and will use the closest ones. If you want to reduce traffic then ban the HGVs going into the leisure center car park and over the bridge. This will not reduce traffic

Message: There is such a lot to this proposal that it is difficult to vote either way as there are such contrasting proposals and views. Whilst peoples views are likely to be tainted by the pandemic at this time, we need to plan ahead for the future, especially if funds to do some of the work are now available. My main personal aim is for the preservation of wildlife [member of the R S P B, W W T, W W F, Woodland Trust, Warwickshire & Hereford Wildlife Trusts, and the National Trust], and as such bringing noisy hoards into presently quiet areas on the eastern fringes of the area is definitely not something to be encouraged. It would appear that the designers [obviously as they are on a fee commission] want to introduce as many changes as possible but I hope that I can be less cynical and hope that all they are really doing is suggesting options. My personal view is that the fishermen's car park should not be extended, and that charges should be introduced on the same scale as, say, the Greenway to better control parking. If it is as cheap to park at the leisure centre [which has the benefit of being closer to town] then the demand for the fishermen's car park will reduce. In order for wildlife to thrive the rarer species generally prefer quieter environments so for the eastern end between the fishermen's car park and the leisure centre I would hope that "development" could be limited to some ponds / marsh areas, some clearance of unproductive scrub and replacement with wild flower meadows, some native specimen tree planting and just a couple of paths [hoggin, definitely NOT tarmac]. Around the perimeter of the leisure centre car park a band of native trees would hide the coaches and lorries when approaching from the fishermen's car park direction. The "central" area, that which is currently "developed" should be retained basically as is, including the Ferris wheel if the Council permits. This is the area which should be retained for the hoards that visit Stratford every weekend, where all the facilities should be [food, drink, toilets, play areas for the children, etc]. I think that the existing children's play area is well sited but would not be adverse to other smaller play areas in other locations within the central or western areas. The other "new" area is that to the western end of the zone, and this is something that I had not expected would be included [although my mother told me that the Council were trying to gain this area to incorporate into the recreation ground over fifty years ago]. As this is further from the central area it should be possible to introduce more wildlife sensitive ponds / marshes, wildlife meadows and tree planting though adventure walks and educational areas for children could also be incorporated here as given its present use there would not be a detrimental effect on wildlife. However, in order to avoid the long traffic queues on Swan's Nest Lane it is probably best to create another access off the route of the former S M J R [now Severn Meadows road]. This could be by the creation of a new vehicular access and car park within the new area but preferably by coming to an agreement with the Rose Bird centre to use their / Waitrose carpark. These are my quick comments for your consideration though I would happily provide more if time allowed. I hope that others will agree with my thoughts and that the residents of Stratford can be proud of the new riverside areas created by the Authorities. The last thing the residents want is Disney on Avon. (name redacted)

Message: This area, Warwick Road Lands and Lenches Meadow, was included in the Neighbourhood Plan as as acknowledgement of the importance of its biodiversity which is recognised through its designation as a Local Wildlife Site. If this plan goes ahead as it stands the biodiversity, in my view, will be severely compromised simply because there are too many people centred activities proposed for the size of the area. This is a missed opportunity. The area should be managed in a sensitive manner, one that protects biodiversity whilst at the same time invites people in to share the undoubted benefits of connecting with natural world. It is nationally accepted that the natural world is under severe pressure and that biodiversity, vitally important to us all, is strained. For this reason I am urging the Stratford District Council to re-think these plans. Managing the area more sensitively does not preclude it from becoming a link to the more developed areas around the Bancroft Gardens and it certainly doesn't preclude it from becoming a peaceful and attractive area for people to enjoy. Please don't lose this valuable little site.

Message: This is a flood plain, so when it floods it will be unusable and be damaged if they try to protect the area by putting in place flood defences the water will be re directed potentially to housing

or into the town - there is housing directly opposite all the way down the river into the town. It also destroys a natural habitat and wildlife haven.
Message: This is already a valuable and attractive area for people and wildlife. It already attracts visitors. It doesn't need 'developing'.
Message: This is an area of outstanding natural beauty. There are sufficient car parking spaces close by. Please do not destroy our local habitat. Have the courage to say no to development.
Message: This is an excellent website. Well done to you all for creating. It is clear, concise and very easy to follow. The proposals that you have suggested are exciting and create a real sense of optimism for residents.
Message: This is an important wildlife sanctuary and should be maintained as such. More car parking and development will destroy this natural habitat which is irreversible. Better walkways through would be a good idea to make it accessible for all but over development will lead to the destruction of this wildlife haven
Message: This is totally unnecessary - it should be left as it is. Why do we need to attract more visitors? This is not for local residents. There must be better ways of spending public money.
Message: This project appears to disregard the current wildlife/scrub/ecosystems. The extension of the Fishermans carpark will destroy the natural habitat and flood plain. The impact of reducing the traffic entering the town would be minimal. Where is the data to support otherwise or at least inform the public to justify the change. There are some ideas around the recreation ground that may be of benefit but an impact study would need to be commissioned. However, a change to Lucy's footbridge is long overdue for accessibility of all. Overall, it seems to me to be a bit of a vanity project. I do not approve of this project in its current format. Thank you
Message: This should be a Nature reserve and left alone - no diggers, no playgrounds, no café, restaurant, no additional parking!
Message: To put 500 cars on this land makes a mockery of your 'green' intentions; and would mean at least 500 and more people in this area- how can this possibly help improve wildlife and their environment? Perhaps the grant would be put to better use by providing more car charging points in the town centre thus encouraging 'eco friendly cars in? The footpaths could be improved to make a 'loop' into and out of town, without the need for widening. Also the creation of more wetland areas within the area could reduce flooding and encourage wildlife. Personally I think 100 car parking spaces would be more than enough
Message: Traffic reduction into would be great, but to the detriment of losing field space to build a massive car park is a worry. Currently I walk the riverside because it isn't utilised much, so as a local, if the foot & bike traffic along that route increases, I am likely to use it less. Many thanks
Message: Turning the Lido into a multi-purpose car park that will only increase traffic in the area is ridiculous. Nature does not need this kind of intervention. Less is usually increased road/river traffic cannot improve the environment.
Message: Until a year ago, the car park accessed a beautiful unspoilt stretch of the river and a quiet walk into Stratford. During the pandemic a regrettable change has taken place. A 500 space carpark with landscaping over a wildlife haven is totally unacceptable. The wishes of local residents should take precedent over the interests of tourists. It's the town centre which is crying out for help and this will not be forthcoming from users of the proposed carpark, or the enlargement of the waterside market
Message: Water taxi sounds good, better bridge at Lucy's Mill makes sense. Very worried about enlarging car park at North end as it damages the environment. Water sports would also damage the environment



Message: We applaud any improvement in protecting the wildlife and ecology of the areas. However we are concerned that the commercialisation and 'Disneyfication' of the Northern area round the Fishermans' car park will not support the existing wildlife let alone enhance its diversification. We enjoy walking in this area because of its wildness. We feel it is essential to ensure that environmentalists and wildlife experts lead this project. People need to understand nature and not just be entertained by it. Existing park and ride facilities should be properly utilised before even considering extending the Fishermans' car park. Catering facilities will increase litter and are not needed in the Northern area. Litter can be detrimental to wildlife. Peoples' mental health benefits from the peace and quiet of interaction with and observation of nature. We all need to learn to listen, watch and be quiet sometimes and we require calm spaces for this to happen.

Message: We are not in favour of the car park being extended there is ample parking in town and a local nature reserve should not be destroyed to provide parking when it already exists in town. The council and trust should focus efforts on supporting businesses in town to survive the pandemic impact and the loss of trade from the high streets of the town this is an unnecessary scheme the £1.5m should be invested in helping new businesses set up and be sustained not destroying natural habitat that exists. That car park that exists should be fee paying as visitors should contribute to the up keep of the town. This is an ill-conceived project all nature should now be protected and the last thing we need is more car parks built when others are under-utilised. More should be done by the Council to manage Covid impact the Covid response has been totally inadequate and shows total disregard for the economy and people of the town. Expecting residents to pay £500k towards this scheme at this time demonstrates poor leadership and lack of strategic thinking and understanding of how to develop And strengthen the town's economy at one of the most difficult times in its history.

Message: We do not like this scheme and the continuation of the "Disney land" treatment of Stratford and its environs. The rot started with the wheel!!

Message: We have a beautiful, relaxing and natural stretch of river as it is, why spoil it.

Message: We visit this area as much as we can and whilst not averse to extending the car park a bit the Warwick road will not cope with 500 cars pulling in and out at busy times and it will also spoil the special area that was once called the sheep dip by locals. It does need investment particularly the launching areas. Bet you have had opposition to those who have invested millions on the opposite bank too.

Message: We wish to strongly OBJECT to the proposed scheme for the northern areas including extension of the Fisherman's car park and proposed visitors centre/coffee shop/playground/mountain bike trails/swimming platform. We believe this area should be maintained as a natural environment, managed solely by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust to build on it's important ecological natural space. This area is NOT suitable for development due to the known flooding issues and the destruction it will cause to the established natural habitats including bats, amphibians, mammals, rare butterflies & moths & a multitude of birds to name but a few. Tidying of existing wild area and an extension to the car park into what you describe as shrubland will reduce wildlife friendly areas that already support many species. The whole point of wildlife areas is that they are WILD and not tidy! This would be further desecrated by litter generated from coffee cups/ waste from any food items/ building work associated with the provision of toilets. You only have to look along the Warwick Road, and indeed any road, in our county to see the terrible state of the verges covered with discarded litter. As you state, this is a known flood plain and ANY building/concrete/roads will further exacerbate this problem for all of the residents in the area. Flood plains are a natural means of slowing the flow of water so that it does not cause a problem further downstream. It is therefore imperative that the land is NOT built on in any way. Wildlife on the river will further be affected by the proposal of a river taxi - surely the idea is that we all walk into town, not create more problems for our river wildlife & fishermen. Money would be better spent developing & enhancing the existing car park areas but creating an entrance into the leisure centre prior to reaching the gyratory roads. This would improve traffic flow around the gyratory as coaches and cars could go directly into & out of the car park with a dedicated entrance / exit road off the Warwick Road. There could be an EV hub in this car park where infrastructure already exists. Any visitor centres need to be either within the current leisure centre or indeed where it already exists - why not support the services we already have in Stratford instead of creating confusion to visitors with many different visitor centres. With the local economy in dire straights & a major recession on it's way, this money would be better spent supporting local businesses within the town itself, bringing visitors into the heart of the town not encouraging them to stay outside. Again, why not support what already exists rather than spend our taxes on what is likely to be a waste of money. We also feel strongly that more effort should be spent encouraging the use of the existing Park and Ride facility rather than build more parking spaces. The provision of the park & ride has never been promoted as well as it could be and is greatly underused - again, find out what people want from this service rather than sell off the land. We also feel that this money should be spent on dedicated cycle routes within our region linking villages and towns together so that we can all cycle safely between our destinations. If we are aiming for a net-zero economy and reduced environmental impact we should definitely not be building in wild spaces and should all be walking and cycling everywhere. We support the idea of enhancing the Recreation Ground with extra wellbeing space/children's play equipment/adult exercise areas

Message: What I like about the project: \* More natural pathways and nature trails, allowing visitors to access wildlife areas on foot. \* Access point for electric river taxi What I don't like about the project: \* Increasing the size of the car park ten fold, when there is already a large car park a few hundred yards further on at the Leisure Centre, that could be accessed by a new slip road. \* Introducing car parking charges, at the detriment of locals who already park and use the area for walking their dogs and exercise. \* Proposal for a maze \* Play and adventure \* Camping \* Bathing/kayaking area \* Facilities for the above \* Electric bike & scooter hire The last six items on my list I feel would introduce an increase in litter and noise, both of which go against the whole concept of improving the site

Message: Whilst I am supportive of extending the car park I would not want it extended beyond parking for around 200 cars, and it must be a pay and display one too. The town needs the income and it would encourage people to move on to let others use the car park, after a reasonable stay. The town has too many visitors in the summer already, some space is needed for residents to enjoy as well. Whilst we are happy to share, we do not want to be crowded out of our own town.

Message: Why are you promoting electric scooters when they are illegal
Message: Why do we need to develop another car park? The park and ride is not used, it has all the info structure it needs to add your silly scooters and the likes, without developing an area that is best left as natural as it can be. Do you and your new town resident's know what is actually under the badlands, as its known to locals? Funny how planning consent was not permitted to the local cycling club, who wished to put a track and circuit on there. The little bridge and swan reserve was actually build and donated by a local company, and what a difference it made to that area, for free. The wildlife the is now there, will all be lost if it commercialised by what your planning to do to this area, and at a cost, that could be better spent improving other areas and leisure facilities around the town.
Message: Why don't you just leave the riverside as it is for ALL people to enjoy - Children already have a play area the grassed area gives them somewhere to run and older people can enjoy meeting together and picnics
Message: Why is there no detailed ecological impact assessment, particularly for the Northern riverside area? The wetland, shrub area appears to be at risk from improved access and improved drainage. This is the only remaining unimproved nature area in SOA and better to remain so unless enhancements are limited and made with nature in mind rather than public access
Message: Why not build a Riverside pub and activity centre it would encompass everything then
Message: Wildlife does not like 'tidy.' We need natural green spaces away from humans. This proposal certainly seems to cater as a childrens playground and car-parking area. Plenty of amusements for humans, which in turn will drive the wildlife away! Certainly from a planning point of view, it will increase congestion. There is such a great need for natural habitats that aren't 'managed.' Can nothing be left for nature. If great financial gain wasn't in the offering, I doubt that this plan would be on the cards. It's an awful idea
Message: With thanks for this week's full publication, my own latest views are as follow: The over-riding purpose is obviously economic. It is desired to increase revenue through these major projects. Sometimes this is inappropriate, as it is here. The floodplain should not be interfered with pending future problems. Water has to go somewhere and allowing nature to take its' course is the optimal plan. The whole scale is too large. There is not enough room for all these grandiose ideas, without aggressive encroachment on wildlife and the natural environment. A strongly modified version is highly desirable. Certainly NOT 500 cars. Nor a Main Stage for the river festival, horrors! There should be NO MORE river taxis/tourist boats, electric or otherwise. There is more than enough river traffic already. I support careful provision of non-motorised play, walking & cycling. I would like equally careful consideration re- provision of "café/restaurant" - what? There is already a restaurant, plus refreshments at the mini golf which crept in. It's hardly possible to turn round in the area without someone wanting to sell you something. While we're at it, do those massive bunches of balloons on sale & similar items really add to a relaxing environment..? Lastly, on the subject of buskers, for they are bound to infiltrate. Indeed, I hope they do. I think they should be encouraged - with a blanket ban on P.A. Thank you for receiving my opinions. Best wishes.
Message: With the extended car parking, can "grasscreting" be used to some extent, rather than just tarmac, to maximise the green element of the project?
Message: Wonderful to hear about the creation of a safe bathing area. Have been wary of swimming here due to the boats passing.
Message: Worried about the nature and ecosystems already lives in the are described
Message: You may well already know but the Riverside Questionnaire on the website has the areas the wrong way around. It asks, "How often do you visit Riverside North - Swan's Nest Lane to Seven Meadows Road" (which is in fact Riverside South), and then, "How often do you visit Riverside South - Fisherman's Car park to the Leisure Centre" (which is of course Riverside North).

Message: Your presentation talks of the history of the Recreation Ground so what effect will this have on Avon Bowls Club that will celebrate its centenary in 2024? In particular I understand that your plans will involve the Bowls Club losing its carpark which will impact the membership of the Club. It seems to me that your plans have more to do with pandering to the day trippers rather than your local community - the big wheel being an early example of this. The bowls club does make a contribution to the town in terms of physical and mental well-being, social interaction and economic. The town does not have a public bowling green so the Club runs community bowling to enable anyone to come and try the game and also provide an opportunity for visitors to the town to play bowls. Many of the benefits of the Club will be largely, and conveniently, unknown to the majority of the councillors and officers.

Message: Intro I love the riverside, the whole lot, it's my favourite part of Stratford since I moved here in 2015, it's where I go for diversion and discovery and it's the first thing about the town which I tell my friends about. I am quite excited about some potentially great improvements in the proposal. But I am concerned about the potential footprint in Riverside North / Lench meadows / Fisherman's car park. I would urge the planners to prioritise preservation and cultivation of the natural habitats. I would recommend limiting the plans for building here only to what is necessary to protect the natural green space and to enhance our enjoyment of it as such. Top priority: We are lucky to have the natural environment between the Leisure centre and Fisherman's car park. There is a lot of wildlife there, I cherish being able to see kingfishers and curlews so close to home. To me, this is a nature reserve and protecting and cultivating its natural beauty should be top priority. The wet and woody area around the existing pond ("24 New wetland nature reserve to encourage wildlife") is a key spot for wildlife. I am glad the proposals are aiming to protect this area. Concerns: The new bathing channel and beach is a bold and exciting prospect! I love swimming in the river and this could enhance that experience and make it more accessible to more people. But it would also disrupt a very large area in the meadow. The potential environmental impacts are unclear at this stage, so I believe this idea needs further assessment and consultation. The idea of using Fisherman's to alleviate traffic entering Stratford on Warwick Road does not seem sensible. It risks repurposing the area into a transport conduit rather than a nature reserve. The congestion bottleneck is at the gyratory; congestion starts at the town then slowly extends up Warwick Road. It would therefore always be more effective to alleviate the congestion closer to town. So, I think the plan for new vehicular access to the back of the Leisure Centre is a very sensible idea! The proposed car park extension at Fisherman's is a great worry due to its size – this would inevitably damage a large area of green space and habitat and could affect the floodplain too. Please do not add 500 spaces. I feel that the car park could be doubled in size at most (and laid out better) and this should be kept as close to the road as possible. If parking space continues to be a limiting factor, then the car park at the Leisure Centre should be expanded first, where there is more available space further from the riverside. Finally: For this response I have generally focused on the negative aspects of the design proposals which concerned me most about Riverside North. But I do support many of good ideas in the proposals, especially around Bridgefoot, RST and further downstream. I look forward to hearing how it progresses and I hope I can be involved in any further consultation. Thanks! (name redacted)

More parking? = more cars some car parks in town are underutilised...reducing charges in existing car parks or creating charging points in town for cars are an opportunity. More people = more litter, more congestion...500 car park spaces is not that many

Most of the area is flood plain. I think it will totally damage the wildlife by building a 500 space car park. A small extension of the car park for walkers is OK but not as large as 500. The Park and Ride on the other side of Stratford is never full so why build a second car park.

My main concern is about Lucy's Mill Bridge. The proposals for it are very thin, the bridge desperately needs modernisation or replacement to allow proper access for all, walkers cyclists, disabled/wheelchair and children's push chairs/buggies. This should be a priority not an add-on. If the bridge cannot be adapted then a new one should be proposed, perhaps south of Seven Meadow road. I also see a note about improved access at the point of the existing chain ferry south of the Theatre near the Dirty Duck pub. What does this proposal entail? It would be very sad to loose such a rare attraction while I trust a bridge is not proposed. Finally I am not aware of any overriding demand for the scheme but I am not particularly against it. I am aware that previously there was a proposal for an access road to the leisure centre car park off the Warwick Road and I always assumed it was in the area of the Fisherman's car park. Is another large car park at this point really necessary?

My main concern is that all that is achieved is the building of a large car park at the current Fisherman's Car Park. Creating another blot on the landscape. Mainly to generate more revenue for other schemes which are not in the interests of residents. Is there any plan to rebuild Lucy's bridge which would be wheelchair accessible and also help young mothers with prams and cyclists. However having said all this I am in favour of improving facilities for both residents and visitors to enjoy Stratford to a greater level than we have today. There is a lot of scope.

My major concern is the inclusion of many more car parking spaces and a visitor centre. There is already a large car park at the nearby leisure centre (which I have never seen full) and an existing visitor information centre at Bridgefoot. How can concreting over a large area be environmentally beneficial? Maintenance of the pathways and bridges and tree planting are valuable and perhaps reduction of some dominant species to allow others to flourish. Please don't overdevelop and ruin our lovely dog walking area.

My wife and I walked from the Fisherman's carpark to the centre of Stratford today for the first time. We were struck by (a) how scenic it was and (b) how unkempt many trees and other vegetation were. This scheme will be the ideal opportunity to enhance this intrinsically lovely area for the general benefit and so as to reduce traffic in the centre of Stratford. The objections from environmentalists are baffling!

No extension of the car park or new car park. By removing vegetation, habitat is being removed and could have an impact on small birds and mammals for nesting and foraging and causing fragmentation and loss of corridors! From looking at the picture you should be contracting on connecting the shrub areas! Plant more native trees and open up areas on the woodland floor for plants to thrive. Also shrubs should be planted to create again nests and foraging areas for birds and mammals. Maybe block of pockets of access to humans and dogs by stacking vegetation.

no,no,no.....destroy even more of our beautiful countryside. Isn't there enough development going on already how much more!!!! Every inch taken is lost for us all!!! There is adequate parking space in town by the sports centre it is rarely full.

Not against this but I notice Angling hasn't been mentioned once despite it bringing hundreds and hundreds of anglers a year to the town who eat, drink, pay to park and stay over especially in the autumn/winter months when hotels and pubs enjoy there support. These anglers also support the towns Stratford and outdoor angling shop. Leamington Angling Association who hold the rights to fish here have helped maintain the banks and vegetation for decades along with providing angling for old and young locals and those coming in from further afield including Coventry, Birmingham, Leamington amongst many other places. They bailiff the area at least twice a day helping maintain any unwanted disturbance from people who's motives are dubious. Please do not forget anglers and the huge positive economic impact they make all year around but especially in those cooler months. And as I'm sure you know angling is hugely beneficial for getting outdoors and enjoying good mental health.

One of the more horrendous proposals is the plan to bulldoze a vast swathe of the wild land and the habitats therein to make space for a 500 space car park. This, a mere 400 yards from the vast Leisure Centre car park that is almost always completely empty! This area is teeming with wildlife from small

critters to larger ones including otters, deer etc and the balance between human use and the wildlife is currently, in my opinion, about right

Over development of the car park area will ruin the space already in existence. It will only increase the number of vehicles using the Warwick Road which at certain times of the year is already at capacity. It is too far out for people to park and walk into town and providing eating and drinking facilities will only take customers out of the town centre which is suffering from the current restrictions. The management of the Warwick Road Land Will require careful professional consideration and over development may destroy the fragile environment that currently exists. Introduction of more paths and upgrading existing paths thereby increasing the footfall may harm the sustainability of the area.

Overall I support the plan and its aims. In particular I like: Riverside North Improving the access for pedestrians and cyclists Making it more attractive for recreational use thus taking pressure off Riverside South Opening up more opportunities for wild water swimmers and other compatible water users Increasing the current size of car park from 42 spaces but only in an eco, sustainable way Reducing traffic into Stratford Town by providing out of town parking for those travelling down the Warwick Road Improvements to the skate park. Riverside South Purchasing the 'onion field' land to expand the size of the Rec and its potential use. Developing the new area into a wet-land to help manage flooding Improving the children's play area and facilities for young people Designating an area for events and performances Other suggestions and comments I support the potential the scheme has for creating employment both for the scheme itself and, longer term, by supporting the entertainment, hospitality and leisure industries. Could the expanded Fisherman's car park also provide access to the Welcombe Hills and thence to the long distance Monarch's Way? Is there the future possibility of developing the dismantled railway running SE from the Shipston Road roundabout as a second Green Way? This could link up with the expanded Rec. Good if Stratford could boast that it has only the second river in the country (after the River Wharfe in Ilkley) to have Bathing Water Status. Wild water swimming has grown enormously popular. I understand Severn Trent have promised this within 4 years. Good if the plan could address the needs of all potential users regardless of age, sex, ability etc Plan seems to place a large emphasis on visitors using cars. Can more sustainable modes of transport be encouraged, certainly to deter traffic into town? Although not part of the plan I support any improvements to Lucy's Mill pedestrian bridge. Are the costs of the project realistic. If not what are the priorities? What other sources of funding are available?

Overall, I am in favour of the project. The important issue to me is not to do "too much" and endanger the current quality of the area by over-development. In particular, the floodplain that is the first large riverbend after leaving the Fisherman's carpark looks to be overdone. This area floods most years and both holds back excess water and grows reeds. The latter then attract Reed Buntings and Sedge Warblers each summer along with the occasional Cuckoo. Please don't destroy this "mini" nature reserve. I agree to more tree planting, but make sure they are the "right trees in the right places", not just any old plantings that add up to a number that sounds good but has a low survival rate and does little in the long run. I'm not sure there are many genuine measurable economic benefits other than more parking spaces to allow for more visitors, but no matter. The main point is to keep the relative wild feeling and not to over develop.

Overdevelopment is tacky and not needed. The area is NOT a blank canvas- it's already full of wildlife which will be paved over for a car park while the rest is changed from nature haven to no better than Disneyland. Shameful

Particularly worried about another flood plain being concreted over. Doubt it will stop traffic into town as visitors will still drive in afterwards anyway. Also the destruction of wildlife/fauna that will be involved. Suggest concentrate on Lucy's mill end of town and new bridge.

Please build mountain bike facilities

Please don't destroy the valuable and fairly wild bit of land. It's has so many species of plants and animals. No tarmac or concrete please. Do not destroy this rare wild place! Manage what is there in an sustainable enhancing what's already there. Please don't take away anymore wild places. Thanks 👏👏👏
Please include plans for music: busking, performances, communal bringing people together singing events - massively important for mental and physical wellbeing and community
Please keep the area natural for the sake of the environment
Please make benches high benches so old people can get up and out of them. My 89 year old dad can't get up from so many benches as all too low. I think there are some good ideas but it is way too over developed, it doesn't need mass changing just gentle tweaks. I have lived here and visited for 50 years and it does not need to turn into Disneyland ..Paris style.
Please revisit the proposal for a cycle track. If not please do something for the residents of Stratford and ignore the tourist dollar. There is getting less and less for residents
Please, please make this a nature reserve instead
Put an accessible bridge at Lucy's Mill 'AT LAST' leave some wildlife areas and meadow, and it could be great.
Re my earlier submission - I have just read about a "way finding" scheme in Leamington funded through the CWLEP. This is exactly what I was referring to in whole-of-Stratford footpaths and cycle ways. Now it has a name it sounds like it might fit within your plans! CWLEP have posted about it on LinkedIn.
Really object to this project - purely for tourist industry - if anything we should be reducing size of carparks. People could walk or cycle here. Better facilities for swimming or just leave it as it is. Spend money on creating high value added employment in Stratford
Really support this project, it sounds and looks fantastic.
Removal of the scrub area in the north which is a high eco diverse area with a car park and a mown grass area with low eco diversity defeats the stated objective to enacted bio diversity. This falls well short of the stated objective to raising the bio diversity of the area but cutting downed, mowing the current environment will result in a degraded environment.
Response submitted by email. Questionnaire only partially completed as it didn't fit wheelchair users.
Riverside north is not an under utilized area, nature uses it. Development of any kind will drive nature away, particularly dredging the river which would be a disaster. Incidentally if sea levels rise by up to half a metre and a high tide comes up the river Severn to Tewksbury it will block the river Avon thus creating flooding upstream. Flooding does not always travel downstream.
Seriously? Stop tearing down more and more trees! When will you learn? Honestly it's ridiculous. You are tearing apart the very thing that makes Stratford a beautiful place; it's rugged and untamed areas of natural beauty, and replacing them with modern tat that you see literally anywhere in England. Stop destroying the very thing that makes Stratford, Stratford. In doing so you are ruining the aspect that makes it so attractive to tourists. You won't need to extend the carpark because no one will want to visit here anymore.
Some of these are good ideas, especially improving pedestrian and cycle access but there are two main flaws (leaving aside the ecological impact on which I am not an expert, so will leave to others who are). Firstly attempting to intercept the traffic from the Warwick road will not work. People do not want to park so far away if they are going into to town to use the shops etc. The empty Rosebird car park is proof of that. Secondly the document clearly states that the creation of these spaces will lead to reduced parking in the centre, providing the opportunity to "repurpose the land" - it is vital that the expected use of such land is presented at the same time as this proposal. The town shops and restaurants will lose trade if people can't park within a reasonable distance. If I want to pop into town for one or two things, I don't want to have to walk 20mins each way to get from the car park.

Where is the analysis on current parking use and current users requirements to support this part of the proposal?

Some very positive ideas here, particularly the water taxis.

Stratford Riverside Consultation My comments on the proposals are as follows: 1. My main interest is in the Riverside North element of the proposals. I live near this area, use the walkways regularly and am also a Trustee of the Town Trust. 2. I believe the Northern element should form Phase 1 of the proposed development. I envisage the Southern element will take longer to procure –for example SDC do not own all the land subject to the proposals. 3. I am in agreement with the proposals to the Northern section, subject to the following observations. 4. In my opinion the Warwick Road approach is the most attractive of all the approaches into Stratford upon Avon. This is currently a semi- rural approach into the town – and I believe that this feel should not be lost. 5. In consider the existing Fishermans' carpark could be increased marginally in size by say another 20 spaces on land between the existing carpark and the Warwick Road. More disabled parking bays should be incorporated. Such an increase in size would have minimal environmental impact. I believe it would be wrong to extend the existing carpark further to the South or North. Both areas have re-wilded over at least a 50 year period. The area to the North is historically interesting. The remnants of ridge and furrow can still be seen and it would be a sacrilege for this area to become lost to a carpark. 6. The access could be improved to this carpark along with electronic carpark 'Spaces / Full' signs. A pedestrian refuge should be incorporated in the middle of the road to make it safer for pedestrians to cross the road and to access the footpath to Rowley Fields and the Welcombe Hills. The carpark should be closed off at dusk – similar to that at the Greenway carpark - to negate the need for carpark lighting and anti-social behaviour.. 7. I believe it would be appropriate to have an attractively designed Visitors Centre, café, a viewing terrace(s), toilets, showers and a landing stage located near this carpark. The floor to this building(s) will need to be located some 2 metres above the current ground level to overcome flooding issues. Good disabled access to this higher level will need to be provided. 8. Access to this building would be by walking from the main carpark (see note 9), the small Fishermans' carpark, by boat (see note 10), by cycling and by walking from Rowley Fields / Welcombe Hills, the holiday park and elsewhere. 9. The Leisure Centre carpark currently has around 560 car parking spaces plus coach parking and is underused most of the time – particularly the Northern end furthest away from the Town. I believe this should be used as the main carpark for Riverside North. I would propose that a new access to this carpark be formed from the Warwick Road at the Northern end of Warwick Crescent. This could be in the form of a roundabout. This access would divert cars and coaches from entering the congested gyratory system and would slow down traffic entering and leaving the town. This arrangement would have far less adverse environmental impact than constructing a new carpark. Electric charging points can be provided as per the original proposal. Night-time lighting and CCTV to be provided for security purposes. 10. From this carpark there should be an attractive pedestrian link to the river with a landing stage plus access routes to Riverside North. From this landing stage I envisage that there would be a circular ferry service linking up with the Visitor Centre, the holiday park, the Bancroft Gardens, Riverside South and a new landing stage at Holy Trinity Church. (This ferry service could be partnered either with the holiday park, Avon Boating, the City Sightseeing buses or another).

Subjecting this biodiverse nature reserve to extensive,, "grooming" and turning it into what is effectively a theme park will destroy it's natural beauty and the attraction for so many local people. Stratford is already heaving with an excess of visitors it is impossible to walk easily down many of the streets comfortably so many local people avoid the centre of town at peak tourist times. I am mystified how enlarging the fishermen's car is going to relieve traffic congestion on the Birmingham Road or town centre as stated by one presenter?? The leisure centre car park often has many vacant parking spaces and is sometimes empty when the Warwick is turned into a an accident waiting to happen by irresponsible unsafe parking on the road side. It is only a few metres to the leisure centre carpark! There must be a better solution less destructive to such a wonderful natural environment



The area is not wasteland it is one of the few wild pieces of natural land around Stratford. This make it invaluable to nature.
The area should be left as it is. No need for redevelopment or extension of car parking
The best thing for wildlife is to leave the area untouched. Increasing the car parking, building swimming stations (encouraging swimming in polluted water?), introducing watersports and water taxis cannot possibly improve the area for wildlife - the area of the river close to the town proves this - too many swans, ducks and geese, but no kingfishers etc!
The council just wants to use the government grant to build a 500 space paying car park on a wildlife area that is also a floodplain. Fact
The development on the Fishermans car park area will have a detrimental effect on the wildlife in this area. There are already paths through the area, new "improved"ones will frighten off the wildlife including Roe deer which I have seen several times. AS you say in your synopsis one of the proposed schemes are wildlife "trials) -suggest you scrap the plan and sack your proof reader! Plus there are plenty of car parks in Stratford already, spend the money putting electric charge points in town where visitors might actually park.
The extension to fisherman's car park seems excessive.
The Fisherman's car par area is one of the wilder natural spaces near Stratford, which are rare these days near towns. Why try and overly manage it and risk losing diverse habitat and species. I would like to see a thorough biodiversity and wildlife assessment completed independently before any further plans are agreed.
The Fishermans car park area needs to be kept more as a nature reserve. Any park/picnic/coffee stands should be to the south of the Rec. Does the town need more visitors "bringing only their picnics and leaving only their litter"? No need for electric charging points at the Fishermans car park - they could not (hopefully) be used at night
The last thing the world and Stratford needs is to pave paradise and put up a parking lot. The recent survey showing much wildlife and some rare species should be publicised in this page rather than pretend-ignored. It gives the impression that this consultation is a censored bit of propaganda rather than a proper public opinion gathering exercise. There are pros and cons to extending access by motor vehicle and "urbanising" a small bit of essential nature, and both sides should be presented clearly and equally
The money for the development at Fishermans car park would be much better spent on improving Lucy's Bridge. No more plans to encourage visitors to Stratford needed. Its time to think about the wishes of those of us who live here. We now avoid town at the weekends.
The natural habitat in this area should not be tampered with. The execution of the plans will unnecessarily disrupt to delicate balance of wildlife. Your FAQ are biased towards a commercial outcome.
The project seems too intrusive to the area, to the point where it will damage the local fauna and wildlife irreversibly. The area holds many rabbits, pheasants, ducks and many other animals, and I believe a lot of these would disappear if the proposal is put in place.
The proposed development around fisherman's car park would totally sanitise the area. It doesn't need a massive car park. The wild nature of the place is what makes it appealing to swimmers and water sports users.

The Riverside North should become a Local Nature Reserve & have a management scheme in place to improve & enhance its biodiversity. Resources should primarily be devoted to the Riverside Central in an attempt to resuscitate a much neglected & now Covid ravaged town centre. No more markets please they are a lazy option, do not sustain economic growth and have an adverse impact on local traders and the hospitality sector who have to face this extra competition while paying sizeable rents and business rates. The Recreation Ground is not a very appealing area of urban parkland and is not enhanced by the addition of fun fairs and the wheel - creates an impression of Blackpool on Avon . Tourists expect a better experience and council tax paying residents also. Riverside Southern also requires improvements -improved pathways, Lucy's Mill Bridge replacement to enable disabled access and innovative solutions. Why don't SDC apply for town centre regeneration funding and more appropriate funds - Leamington won £10m bid from Future High Streets Fund. Why not target ecological funding?

The Southern riverside area is ideal for development with trails and play areas and has scope for even more parking than the current generous provision. But please do not ruin the Fisherman's car park area by development there, and leave it as a wildlife sanctuary. We should encourage people to use the Park and Ride to get into the town centre, which would be better for the town streets and does not involve the proposed enlarged enormous car park. Please don't ruin what natural assets we have

The whole project is a contrived waste of money and injurious to wildlife. The very idea that the scheme would reduce congestion in the town centre is derisory and the car parking scheme is only intended for money-making purposes. The area should remain as it is for the benefit of wildlife. If the land was privately owned the Local Authority would never be in agreement with such a ill-considered scheme. A complete waste of public funds.

There is a missed opportunity to extend the off-road paths to create a link to the Welcombe Hills. I've tried running this once, along the main road: I won't do it again. PARKRUN: the parkrun at Stratford Rec is very successful, improving public health locally and attracting many visitors: the scheme should incorporate a new parkrun route, no more than three laps, that avoids the pinch point by the bowling club. CAR PARK: it can be bigger maybe, but only a little. SWIMMING: nice idea, but not while tripper boats are speeding along there. PARKING 2: Is there any way this scheme can address the horrendous traffic queues into Stratford, particularly at weekends, approaching from the Shipston and Ettington areas? Or at least accommodate the possibility of future easing of traffic?

There is absolutely no need to develop this land. That creates genuinely increase flood risk from lost meadowlands, and significant threat to biodiversity. The two has sufficient local parking facilities. Executing this plan would actually diminish the quality of life for local people of Stratford who pay taxes and rates, and are the most regular users of town amenities.

There is plenty of parking off the A46 which is currently under used. The loss of natural habitats for the wildlife. If you require more parking then extend parking on the old railway line near the race course.

This area is natural should remain so, whilst allowing disabled access. Extending Fisherman's car park is OK so long as additional scrubland is provided for wildlife. Widening and better maintaining footpaths is OK, but there should not be more footpaths. Adding to the play equipment on the recreation ground is OK, but not near Fisherman's carpark - this should remain unspoilt. Footpath along the river between Lucy's Mill Bridge and The Tramway should be raised so that it is passable even when the river bursts its banks. Crossing the Warwick road between Fisherman's car park and the path towards the Obelisk, Welcombe hills, should be made easier - both visibility and traffic speed make this difficult.

This area needs development but not with 500 car park spaces.

This area needs to be maintained as Stratford's best family area to visit.

This drawing should not be used. It doesn't show the full scale of the car park at fisherman's car park (will be 3 times the size) & it includes a field not owned by the council and the owner has said he won't sell, also missing off the vast car park planned on the field.
This is a great community based project. It will give the town itself room to breathe and encourage more retail investment and leisure activities. Well done!
This is a project which will be of great benefit to the people of Stratford. I disagree that it will create Disney on Avon as some have claimed, but Stratford's very own Kew Gardens.
This is on land the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust says is "the most important wildlife site close to Stratford". If effectively managed, according to the Trust, this would provide a national priority habitat. Yet, these proposal includes building a massive 500 space car park on part of it. Increased footfall and river use for leisure activities would of itself be detrimental to wildlife. The proposals include a mound, a maze and several other "amenities", all of which go right through the nature reserve and would inevitably destroy trees and other wildlife habitats. The Warwickshire Wildlife report on the area says that it is a mosaic of unmanaged habitats, including flood meadows, marsh, wet woodland, scrub and post-industrial grassland, which together support a rich flora and fauna. The Trust has a alternative plan to manage the area sensitively for wildlife. The way to attract visitors would be to protect our valuable riverside habitat. Then local people could continue to enjoy it as well as visitors. Existing riverside walks should be improved and developed into a continuous network of paths and cycle routes that include to other beautiful places along the river.
This is one of the most imaginative schemes I've seen to enhance Stratford's residents and visitors enjoyment of the town. It presents an opportunity to be even more imaginative and link to and improve the many paths and green spaces crisscrossing Stratford. I'd be delighted to be involved.
This land is already used daily by hundreds of local people, the main path is very accessible and newly laid in some places. This is a wild, natural landscape full of nature and should be left undisturbed. I agree with more paths to enable people to access more of the area but another car park for 400 cars! The Warwick road is already at a standstill in summer, the traffic fumes are horrendous, the fisherman's car park is often left in an awful state by large parties travelling from elsewhere and leaving there rubbish behind. We should be preserving this beautiful place not destroying it with concrete and fumes. The leisure centre car park is a few hundred metres further on and is predominantly empty. Please listen to local people who are rapidly losing access to green spaces due to the over development of this town. Green space is now more important than ever and it needs to be protected.
This looks like a great opportunity and I welcome outdoor exercise as a keen runner and cyclist. This area is really missing an off-road cycling area in a past time that is growing by the year I would like to see a cross country/cyclocross/MTB trail built for local residents and in particular children to help promote fitness. This is a provision that is missing in this area and if done properly would also attract visitors (just look at FoD MTB trail centre to see what could be achieved). I would be willing to discuss further if needed, as this is an opportunity not to be missed.
This project must ensure that every possible eco/environmental aspect is fully respected and managed. Priority must be given to protecting and developing biodiversity. A commitment to future maintenance and care is essential. Failure to achieve the highest standards of environmental care will implicitly mean that this project is a failure.
This sounds exciting and full of potential to be a focus for all kinds of outdoor events - would be great to have a number of areas for outdoor performance.

<p>This whole project is unwarranted and UNWANTED. Where is the demand? - Very little. Fishermans Car park is a tranquil (free) haven. To enlarge it to 500 cars will require wholesale destruction of existing habitat. The last thing the area needs is cycle and scooter paths, coffee stands etc. If E charging points are so important why have they not been installed in existing car parks, including the Rec where electricity is already laid on. Exactly what is environmentally friendly about building landing stages for River Taxis, destroying existing wild habitat etc.. Clearly the intention will be to charge for parking - another nice little earner for SDC. Prior to Covid lockdowns the area was only over busy on very exceptional circumstances, and is likely to revert to that post lockdown. The Rec already has play area, and exercise machines, the latter of which are totally under utilised. It is a pleasant place to walk, sit and exercise. It is used for festivals occasionally, Leave it alone. Leaver everything alone, and use the money on something the Stratford residents actually want- not this trumped up nonsense.</p>
<p>This will have a detrimental effect on business in the town and destroy important ares for our wildlife, it's a lovely natural part of Stratford that is enjoyed by many, why spoil that by creating another commercialised concrete jungle</p>
<p>This will have an effect on the wildlife by invading their habitat. Also Stratford upon Avon does not need any extra parking. The park and ride has plenty of spaces left empty and the council parking at the Rosebird centre is underused even though there is a pleasant walk to the recreation ground from here. Encourage use of these sites before damaging any other wildlife site in Stratford upon Avon. Not necessary</p>
<p>To build on this flood plain would be a disaster. There is enough flooding in this area. Leave the land as it is.</p>
<p>To make the car park big enough to cope, there would be too much disruption to the existing wasteland. Don't create mire tarmac areas; in fact spend the money creating more green spaces in the town centre itself. Bancroft gardens would benefit from more trees.</p>
<p>Totally dismayed that one of the few remaining areas of natural habitat it to be sanitised for the sake of the council's coffers. This area of natural beauty and sanctuary for insects, birds and small animals to be destroyed not for the benefit of local residents but for financial gain. The Bancroft and recreational ground has been pared back to basics no longer a place of beauty - gone the beautiful cherry trees and the majestic chestnuts or the colourful flower beds. Soon the council will have decimated anything that could be even loosely termed 'natural'. Once it has gone it has gone forever. With all the other areas for parking and recreation why destroy this last oasis just for financial gain?</p>
<p>Very concerned about the number of people dropping litter disturbing you when you are fishing and in my experiences all the visitors will be out of town and not locals</p>
<p>Very concerned that any upheaval in the area will have a negative impact on the wildlife that has become established there. It would be much better in my opinion to leave the area separate for those who wish to enjoy nature rather than just expand the town centre commercialism. People go there because it has an individual character. The idea that people will pay to park there and then pay more to get a water taxi or walk in is almost laughable. If you consider the incredibly poor uptake in the park and ride it is obvious people prefer the convenience of parking closer where they can have easier access to the car and leave when they want to rather than wait for a bus to get them back to the car.</p>
<p>Very important to improve the north end with good footpaths and signs. An area which has flora and fauna and space. Don't want more cars.</p>
<p>Very interesting</p>
<p>Very little of this scheme could be done for £2m. At Fishermans, entrance from the Warwick Road is dangerous NOW with speeds of up to 70mph. It would need a roundabout. Entrance should be from Leisure Centre car park. It would not entice many to trek from there to the shopping centre. Mention of "lido" type facilities is madness. River water not fit; would require lifeguard services; not compatible with boating. All would require infrastructure in support</p>

Very strongly support. This is a brilliant plan for an area in great need of sympathetic - but improved - management. I like the idea of facilitating green transport - e.g. electric transport. I wonder if the visitor centre will be able to incorporate solar panels to assist. I'd suggest that the visitor centre should be nearer the road - for security, visibility, access to sewers and services. Also, that it incorporates the toilet facilities and catering. It should be sufficiently large to act as a community use facility – perhaps a similar size to the Rosebird Centre. The Centre should be an exemplar of ECO in as many aspects as can be accommodated, and an information centre to promote ECO. The parking should be sympathetic – perhaps a honeycombe style grid covered with porous materials to allow water coverage and subsequent drainage. A modest subsidy to reduce the cost of parking for green vehicles, and green vehicles owned by trust members would be very welcome and demonstrate the benefits of the trust to a wider group. Please don't let the selfish interests of a minority scupper the enhancement of this land with all of the benefits to the wildlife and the Town that this will bring.

We are opposed to any extensive redevelopment for car parking and increased public access at a site which is both a flood plain and an important environmental habitat. The public will continue to drive as close to the town centre as they can to gain access to the facilities that they want. Why not extend the Leisure centre parking area by creating a new access road from the Warwick Road at a point just before the housing starts on the left. Please leave the northern area as a 'wilding' project (like they have at Knepp castle) and quiet leisure area and use the existing southern area which has more general facilities already for sports and entertainment and access to the town centre. Those who want a more active leisure time can use the Southern area and those wanting peace and quiet can use the Northern area. The example of cars parking along the Warwick road near to the Fisherman's car park is not a usual occurrence as most people know. It never occurred before the pandemic. In due course people will be going to Spain on their holidays as before.

We certainly need extra parking facilities by the Fisherman's carpark. We should also think about how pedestrians cross over the gyratory to Bancroft Gardens, this is a major contributing factor to traffic congestion. A bridge wouldn't work as an eyesore but possibly a subway. But with increasing population and the encouragement of footfall, e scooters, bikes etc traffic will get worse. I'm Certainly up for this project. I walk daily along the river, though I prefer it in the winter when there is no one else around, I avoid it in the summer and hate the crowds. Though understand the need to encourage people to our Town for financial revenue, goodness knows we need it more than ever since covid.

We have a family property in the local area and used the town for weekly food shop, domestic shopping, restaurants, cinema, theatre, kids arts and craft activities, charity shopping, volunteering, working, shoe repairs and tourist visiting especially feast days. So all-in-all. Riverside proposal feedback: Do like the natural play areas idea ( wood logs) as this has worked very well in many other areas in the country and is a great way for children and their parents to get some exercise - so this is vital for the future. Do be careful of zip lines! Do like the idea to connect more walking areas. Do like the idea to use outdoor space for family quality time. Friends of mine and their whole family from Coventry, have used this area a number of times last year. They took their picnic blanket and basket, and camping kettle for a cup of tea, and visited the Fisherman's carpark area, a few times last summer, 2020. This is a key idea to get the community into the outdoors. Do like the idea of preserving the wildlife areas for the future generation. Great to work with wildlife trust. Do like the idea that proposals are being investigated for paid commercial items or services as on paper it always look good, but do not always work. As the economy is going to be very hard for many families in future - this should be avoided or very well investigated, as it could turn out to be an investment loss. I.e. expensive electric bike or scooter business, not convinced people will pay. Do like the idea of small protected wildlife habitats (islands) along a walking route, as this would give families the opportunity to see nature and learn together from it. A real fun idea. Real potential for that in this area. Do like the idea of more natural structures rather than steel or mechanical structures in nature, as the former can be expensive to maintain and keep up with health and safety standards. Using more natural items mean that when it decays it has a more natural 'form' and less of a health and safety issue, i.e. old cut off tree stumps, etc. rather than steel item. Do like the idea of proposals that would include families as it could give them the opportunity for 'their favourite spot', which means they would return again and again. And then more have the inkling to spend money around town. Do like the idea of a trails leading up to some good eating or picnic spot, very important in our community. Or an ice-cream spot! It is the 'reward' for getting kids to do some walking. Food at the end of it. People just live these routes. Do like the idea to get to protect more nature, and then having families to come and enjoy it. Do wonder if an expensive park and boat ride would work? The weather is just not great for that. Best thing would have a specific restaurant that is doing well, get to get their own guests to book a 'romantic boat ride' up to the restaurant for their 'date night' meal. Much more incentive, then doing the weekly shop or chores in a boat. Now that would be great.

We swim weekly at the old bathing place. All we need is a set of steps so we can exit and entry the water safely. Don't let the water taxis get access to all the river. We swim upstream not fine stream. You MUST allow and area for people to swim there. Please - it's so special.

We used to live in (redacted) . We love coming back to Stratford upon Avon and park at the Fisherman's carpark and walk into town with our dogs to use the town's facilities and spend money at local businesses. It is a lovely walk into town and is enjoyed by many people. The only problem is the lack of parking for walkers such as ourselves, the fishing people and the canoeists. The car park is not big enough particularly when the canoeists are trying to sort out their canoes. I know that other car parks have been mentioned which are closer to town, but visitors don't park at the fisherman's car park for convenience's sake - we enjoy walking/fishing/canoeing in the area, as do many residents. Please feel free to use my comments.

We would like to see the swimming area at the Fisherman's car park up graded to how it appears to be in the 1930's. With safe access and exit to the water and a beach grassed area for picnics. We don't think the car park needs to extended by that much as we don't want it to have a detrimental effect on the local habitat

What is the evidence and why is it an improvement to have a parking space for 500 cars? Shouldn't the park and ride at parkway station be encouraged? If people should go to fisherman's why not just extend the park and ride bus and not make all the car parking? Encouraging cars is bad for the environment locally

When much of the world is waking up to the climate crisis, loss of natural habitat and risks to biodiversity, Stratford comes up with an illogical scheme of madness to destroy a very special place. There is no need for yet more parking - better signage to the Leisure Centre car park is needed. Cars use the Fishermans car park because it is free. Charge the same as other car parks and see what the demand is. Another 500 car parking spaces will do no nothing positive for the environment. It will destroy wildlife habitat and increase flood risk. Stratford has more than enough manicured areas already. Leave well alone. For once Stratford DC do something for future generations. They will not thank you if this poorly thought through scheme is progressed in any way other than to properly protect and enhance what we already have.

While generally in favour of refreshing the riverside, I am very much against changing the nature of the Fishermen's Car Park area. A formal structured area will not help with biodiversity and encouragement of wildlife. It could also have an adverse effect on the flooding that happens there regularly.

Whilst generally in favour of a sympathetic regeneration of the riverside, the thought of a 500 place fisherman's car park fills me with dread. The congestion this additional traffic will cause on the Warwick Road will only worsen air quality in the area and traffic movements in/out of the car park will present a significant hazard. A more sensible option may be to provide a limited expansion of the underused Leisure Centre car park with dedicated entrance and exit areas. The promise of electric car charging points is hardly a big selling point. If this is seen as a key enticement for more electric vehicles, then surely this is a facility that should be rolled out at existing car parks giving an immediate benefit. Of course any new car park should have electric charging points, it's a no brainer, but hardly a USP that would sway my opinion.

Whilst I agree in principle to development of the area behind the leisure centre, I am concerned that it is probably the last wild area in Stratford. So long as Warwickshire wildlife trust have a large input into the development of the land, I agree that it will be a benefit to the town. If there is going to be a new entrance into the leisure centre car park just along the way from the Fishermans car park entrance, I don't see the need to drastically increase the car parking area to 500 spaces. The existing car park is so badly laid out with that central green area, which if was taken out more cars could be parked without need of an extension. If there has to be an extension to the car park I would prefer to see the use of ground reinforcement grid is to allow the grass to grow through, thus making a green and free draining area.

Why are all comments not available for public viewing? Transparency and public involvement are essential. Why is there no documentation from the Environment Agency?

Why do we need another 500 car park when we already have a park & ride along with the leisure centre car park that are currently underutilised and have been for the last 15 years. It will also have an adverse effect on the local wild animal population. This project is doomed to fail as you currently do not have enough finance to meet the full project cost ....how will you finance the shortfall?

Why do we really need to develop another car park when the park and ride by the train station is already there and not used that much .. promote that first before messing with the wildlife here

Why not think about a less commercial, more green 'rewilding' for the Riverside North along the lines of Heart of England Forest [www.heartofenglandforest.com](http://www.heartofenglandforest.com) to provide low key human activities for local people (walk, bring your own picnic), rather than cafes to buy takeaways, creating litter which will need managing. Humans need to work with nature, not impose itself at such scale that it takes over. Limit the more organised and concentrated human activities to Riverside South and the rec. Don't know if an extended car park at Fisherman's Place will work to keep traffic out of the town - the park and rides are under utilised as people seem to want to bring their car in. Reducing car parking capacity in the town might make parking so difficult it deters traffic & encourages more park & ride from those travelling in to Stratford. As a local resident I would like more walking and cycling routes to avoid the use of a car.

Wildlife will be taking another hit if this proposal succeeds. The planet does not need more car parks. Our representatives should strive to maintain such tranquillity as remains in Stratford.
Will this create more flooding in the town centre area, simply pushing flood water further downstream?
Worried about loss of habitat
Would love a space purely for exercising dogs! With a high fence and plenty of poo bins!
You say increasing mental and physical health benefits to all .... what about the wildlife? I would like to see a Covid safe public presentation where we can discuss, better understand and comment on the various elements of the project. I would like to see more from the Wildlife Trust and environmental impact. Thank you
Zero evidence presented that this will help town centre business. There is plenty of underused town fringe parking, already. No justification for decimation of green space to build more. Massive PR fail for STT to be associated with this ill-conceived SDC plan. Reconsider.
<p><b>Node</b> What will be done in the Town Centre to increase the appeal for visitors? Will the council be encouraging local artisans and local businesses in some way? It is clear that high street stores are in a downward decline. <b>Traffic</b> Removing traffic from the town centre does not encourage shoppers. If pollution is caused by stationary traffic then easing traffic flow has to be the answer. On the north side of Stratford there are five sets of traffic lights in a mile on a major road and artery in the town causing queues. One way systems and road closures also cause snarl ups. We regularly use the Warwick Road and the Fisherman's Car Park itself and although the car park can be busy the photos of traffic parking on the roads are not typical. Not all traffic entering Stratford-upon-Avon will be drawn by a riverside park. This is entirely ignoring the huge volume of traffic heading to the Birmingham Road shopping centres. Even though town centre shops, hotels, theatre and restaurants are currently closed the traffic is still heavy going to the Birmingham Road shopping area. <b>Car Parking</b> The current Fisherman's Car Park has 50 spaces. Since the council recently re-laid the surface and reallocated spaces the parking has been significantly improved. How has the necessity for 10 times the current capacity been calculated? Are we cracking a nut with a sledge hammer? Currently it is free to park so presumably it is the council tax payers who are paying for their own facility? Introduce charges and residents will be paying for the facility for a second time meaning it will not be as popular for those on low earnings or pensioners. Many of us use the facility because it is quiet not a fair ground. The plan suggests that visitors parking cars outside the town relieves pressure for local residents parking in the town centre, but there is also reference to future reuse of car parking facilities in town. We already know that Windsor Street car park will be removed with a loss of 243 places. This car park serves shoppers and visitors to the Shakespeare Properties. The plan seems to exclude the use of the overflow car park in the southern portion opposite the Church. Assuming that like most of the tourist spots the majority of visitors start to arrive at around 10.00 am and leave around 4.00 pm what will the capacity and frequency of the water taxis be? At best 500 cars would mean 500 people to be transported to the town and it is more likely to be 1000 or more. What is the improvement in accessing and egressing the site? It can be difficult to pull into the traffic, but though mentioned the plan does not indicate anything definite to assist. Will the car park close at dusk or will there be a need to light the footpath and car park for safety should evening theatre goes and diners decide to use it? <b>Site Management</b> Flooding is a big issue on this site. This year the flood water from the river crept up to the edge of the car park preventing any use of the area. If there is a plan to deepen the river or include flood defences I have not seen. In fact did the presentation suggest that it was not being included as permanent buildings would not be included? For a plan like this should it not be future proofed against the change in the weather? Is it not likely that paths impervious to floods will help the ground to mop up the water? There is a suggestion that the path along the riverside would be elevated to allow access to the town even when the river was in flood No steps please!</p> <p>Toilets would be a sensible addition to the site. As would more flood proof benches. A high proportion (approx. 30%) of the residents of Stratford Town are older and gentle short walks and</p>



facilities for a rest are helpful in encouraging exercise. But they do need facilities close to the car park.

The small bridge across the cutting near the back of the hotel is not suitable for wheelchairs and needs better planning. Are there fire risks to be addressed from litter and barbecues? There is no mention of the Swan Reserve behind the hotel. Has that gone? Why do the paths have to curl in circles taking up more space from the wildlife? There are currently grass paths across the area which run in a more direct route from A to B. It is gratifying that you are working with a wildlife conservancy organisation. in considering what is best for the flora and fauna in the area. The steep steps and narrow bridge at the southern end of the plan near Lucy's Mill does need attention to enable a round journey for prams, bikes, wheelchairs and the mobility challenged. And the alleyway behind the flats there really needs maintenance ...it is a dog and person open toilet! **Fishing provision** There is a clue.... this is the Fishermen's Car Park. But the fishermen are losing a huge amount of ground along the riverside. Fishing needs quiet water not a constant stream of canoes, boats, swimmers, splashing dogs and boats. As the most popular leisure activity in the country ignoring the fishermen is a major oversight. Currently the club pays for and maintains the pegs and a daily walk by the bailiff ensures any problems in the area are quickly sorted out. If less pegs are available then the riverside may lose this support. Current provision for disabled fishermen on the riverside disappears and is non-existent in the plan. At present it is a short walk to the disabled fishing pegs, just a few yards from the car park. On the plan fishing pegs will be further away from the car park which will probably exclude the disabled and infirm. **Infrastructure** The town already suffers from the modern demands on the Victorian drainage system. How much additional demand will the project add with toilets and cafes? (name redacted)

Sir, I appreciate that the above project is still under consultation but I am alarmed at the speed at which it is being pushed through by both the Stratford Town Trust and the Stratford Town Council. The Mayor mentioned in his video that "the project is work in progress" can you tell me the priorities of the project? Has sufficient feedback from the environmental agencies regarding the existing plant, wildlife and the flood plain been received? **WILDLIFE / PATHWAYS** Green space is much treasured and yet the project would reduce what we have with car parks and buildings, plant and wildlife would be destroyed. It would take many years to entice wildlife back to the area if at all (aren't Otters something special to keep?) This area offers quietness and open space, it is a pleasure to walk along the riverbank to look around at what we have. The photo of 3 people walking abreast surly shows the pathways are wide enough, maybe not if you want to add joggers and electric bikes (you're promoting well being so what is wrong with just walking to the town which lets face it is not far away). **PARKING** Better signage and vehicle access to the back of the leisure center car park would be beneficial. Has consideration also been given to the park & ride which is not fully utilized and already has electric charging stations. A huge benefit would be lost to the residents and employee's of the town if the Fishermen's car park became fee paying. The Council offer I believe a very nice perk to their employee's with free parking are you considering now making them pay if not why not we will have to. Where are you referring to in the statement made "over longer term the scheme has the potential to release some town center land currently used for car parking for development to meet housing or employment needs"? **FISHING** For many years the fishermen have enjoyed the pleasures of the river Avon and now you want a creation of designated fishing areas with timber boardwalks (points of Node 22 & 34) in effect confining them to where you want which is not what they want. Will the river taxis stay close to the waters edge scaring the fish or in the way of the pleasure, rowing and motor boats? **ENTERTAINMENT** The project is very much aimed at visitors to the town (mostly north end) and whatever money spent may not benefit the town. Is it physically possible to accommodate all what has been suggested, i.e. the woodland walk and maze. The photos show much larger areas than the corridor its self why did no-one challenge Node and when was Stratford made a city? Surly one of the priorities for Stratford is to generate income in the town and get people back into the shops. This might be achieved by reducing business rates, encouraging new business, offering free / reduced

parking charges rather than driving residents to other locations and towns. Please do not rush into this project without further consultation. Also please consider making the area a local nature reserve. (name redacted)

### **North Riverside highways appraisal**

You have asked me to consider the highway safety implications of the 500 space car park proposed within the Riverside North area of the Riverside Concept Landscape Design document. This car park is based upon an expansion of the existing Fisherman's Car Park using the existing car park access. I carried out a site visit at this car park on 22nd December 2020 between 12 midday and 1pm and I consider that this expansion is likely to lead to highway safety and capacity problems.

My assessment is outlined below.

#### **Access layout**

The Fisherman's car park access onto the A439 Warwick Road is a priority junction access with a right turn lane from the A439 into the car park. The speed limit on the A439 is 50mph. The width of the access is approximately 5m and kerb radii at the junction are relatively small. Observations on site showed that cars may turn in whilst others are waiting to exit, but only slowly and there was no margin for drivers to be poorly positioned on the exit. Ideally, this width should be increased, and this would probably be essential for a larger car park with greater activity.

#### **Visibility and speeds**

The existing car park access has visibility splays of approximately 120m at 2.4m in both directions onto the A439. This is approximate as the visibility to the right (nearside) is unsafe to measure accurately with one person only. 120m was my reasonable maximum estimate of the splay. Note this visibility is also obstructed due to shrubs and grasses that require cutting back. It is possible to see vehicles through these shrubs but not clearly. If in leaf in the summer this would probably further reduce the visibility. Unobstructed visibility is probably about 70m at best. This obscured left visibility could be improved with maintenance to around 120m by removing the shrubs growing in the visibility splay.

There are trees either side of the access that are just behind the 2.4m visibility splay meaning that a second vehicle queued, or the first vehicle if not pulled right up to the give way will not see to the right. This probably won't impact on safety but could reduce the exit capacity as it will make drivers more cautious in pulling out.

1] Car Park : The only reason that you are proposing a huge extension of the Fisherman's Car Park is that the Council wish to increase the number of day trippers to Stratford. In normal times we are saturated with day trippers who come by car and coach and they cause congestion on the roads to the town and on the pavements within the town. These tourists spend very little during their brief stay and cause enormous stress for your residents who are trapped in their homes during peak times. I would estimate that such day trippers spend no more than £10 per person during their stay. I would recommend that your marketing resources spend their time promoting "staycation" tourists who come and spend 2/3 days in our town staying at a local hotel or B&B. During their stay they will visit the theatre, visit the local historic sites and eat in our pubs and restaurants. I would estimate that these tourists spend atleast £500 per person during their time in Stratford. Also during their stay their car would be parked off road where they are staying and hence no additional congestion or pollution.

2] Wildlife : The area known as Lench Meadow is comparatively small in area and does not lend itself to be both a nature reserve and an extension of "theme park" Stratford. In the excellent Warwickshire Wildlife Trust's Bowley report they state that the Lench Meadow is one of the most important wildlife sites close to Stratford. It also "strongly recommends that the Lench Meadow becomes a local Nature Reserve". With the funds that you have secured WWT could vastly improve this site and have funds to maintain it for many years to come. This I believe would be to the liking of the majority of the residents of Stratford.

Part 3 redacted as name given

