# CONTENTS

1. Introduction .................................................. 1
2. Policy Background ............................................. 2
3. Consultation with the Planning Authorities & Members ...... 4
4. Consultation with Stakeholder Groups and the Local Community ... 6
5. Conclusions ..................................................... 11

Appendices:

A. Organisations to whom “CommUnity” newsletter was sent in November 2005
B. External stakeholder meetings attended
C. Publicity materials used by the University
D. Frequently asked questions, with answers
1. Introduction

1.1 This statement has been prepared by Turley Associates on behalf of The University of Warwick. It forms part of the Outline Planning Application for:

Redevelopment/improvement of the University of Warwick, comprising appropriate demolition of buildings, erection of new buildings for a range of possible uses (C2, D1, C3, D2 and ancillary A1/A2/A3/A4/A5), sports provision, car parking, landscaping and associated infrastructure/ancillary works.

1.2 The statement provides information on the communications and community engagement associated with the proposed development.

1.3 It is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to encourage early engagement of stakeholders in the process of Plan making and bringing forward development proposals. The University of Warwick has embraced the need for public consultation and community involvement at the earliest opportunity, and has tried to ensure that the wider public has been kept informed and given the chance to express their views on the proposals prior to the agreement of the Masterplan principles and indicative Masterplan.
2. Policy Background


2.2 PPS1 sets out the Government’s overarching policy towards community involvement in planning, advising that it should not be a reactive ‘tick box’ process (Paragraph 43). Instead, effective community involvement requires an approach which:
   - Tells communities about proposals in good time;
   - Consults on formal proposals;
   - Ensures that consultation takes place in locations that are widely accessible, and;
   - Provides and seeks feedback.

2.3 PPS12 also requires applicants for major developments to consult on their proposals. In particular, applicants are actively encouraged:

   “...To undertake early community consultation. Authorities cannot refuse to accept valid application because they disagree with the way in which an applicant has consulted the community. However, failure of an applicant to consult could lead to an objection being made, which would be material to the determination of the application...”

2.4 Local Planning Authorities are required to prepare Statements of Community Involvement (SCIs) as part of the Local Development Framework process. The SCI document sets out how the community has been involved in the preparation of the Council’s Local Development Framework, what issues were raised and how those issues where dealt with when formulating the Council’s Plan. The SCI also includes requirements for Planning Applicants in consulting local people on individual development proposals.

2.5 The University of Warwick campus straddles the authoritative boundaries of Coventry City Council and Warwick District Council, the policy documents of both Local Authorities have therefore been taken into account when formulating proposals for the expansion of the University campus.

2.6 Coventry City Council published its submission draft SCI in April 2006 (the University had commented on an earlier draft in 2005). All representations received as part of the submission stage consultation were submitted to the Planning Inspectorate as required and an independent Planning Inspector considered the ‘soundness’ of the SCI. In August 2006 the Council received the Inspectors Report for Coventry City Council’s SCI, which concluded that subject to minor recommended changes, Coventry’s SCI is sound. The Council published the adopted SCI in November 2006.

2.7 Warwick District Council is currently preparing an SCI. In November 2006, the Council prepared a Draft SCI; this was available for public consultation. The Council subsequently approved a revised version of the SCI which was submitted to the Secretary of State in April 2007.

Coventry City Council SCI

2.8 Coventry City Council’s SCI provides guidance to prospective Planning Applicants on involving the community in Planning Applications. Section 8 of the SCI relates specifically to ‘Community Involvement in Planning Applications’, it states that guidance is particularly relevant to ‘significant’ applications. Significant applications are defined as falling into one or more of the following descriptions as set out in paragraph 8.2 of the SCI:
   - Large scale applications (more than 10 dwellings, 1,000 square metres of floorspace or a site of more than 0.5 hectares)
   - Applications that are not in line with policies contained in the Development Plan/Local Development Documents.
   - Proposed developments where there would be significant environmental impact and/or significant transport implications.
   - Other applications where community involvement may be important. For example,
employment land or green space may be lost.

- Proposals where there is a potential impact on adjoining Conservation Areas or listed buildings.
- Those applications that generate local concerns, e.g. food and drink uses…”

2.9 The development proposals for the University of Warwick fall within the relevant descriptions of paragraph 8.2 and therefore a consultation strategy is required.

2.10 Pre-application consultation is actively encouraged by the SCI with early community involvement favoured. Paragraph 8.3 of the SCI states “…community consultation works best if it is carried out at the point when proposals are being formulated. By ‘front loading’ the process, the community is able to participate in identifying issues and debating options from the onset, thus having the potential to make a real difference to the design of the proposal subsequently submitted…”. As detailed in this document, the University has undertaken an extensive consultation programme prior to submission of the Planning Application.

Warwick District Council Draft SCI

2.11 Warwick District Council’s Draft SCI is directed at members of the public and the ways in which they can get involved in consultation. Limited guidance is offered to prospective Planning Applicants on the consultation procedure. Paragraph 2.5 of the document states that “…for all major applications where pre-application contact is made by developers, officers will discuss options with prospective applicants for pre-application consultation with affected parties/stakeholders in order that they might obtain feedback to assist them in formulating their proposals…”.

2.12 Similarly, paragraph 9.7 stipulates that “…developers and applicants are encouraged to discuss their proposals with planning officers, statutory consultees, neighbours to the development and the wider public where relevant. Where major development is proposed discussions with officers will cover possible methods of and timescales for pre-application publicity that they may wish to undertake on their proposals. This may include public exhibitions or meetings which will inform residents and interested groups…”.

2.13 Appendix 2 of the Draft SCI contains the Town & Country (General Development Procedure) (Amendment) (England) Order 2006 definition of ‘major development’. Again, the University proposals fall within the relevant definition and a consultation strategy is therefore required.
3. Consultation with the Planning Authorities & Members

3.1 As part of the consultation programme, the Project Team has sought to engage with the relevant authorities from the outset in order to ensure that a ‘joint-working’ approach is established. This work has involved interacting with Council Officers and Elected Members by way of meetings and ongoing dialogue.

University of Warwick Steering Group

3.2 Since the foundation of the University of Warwick, the University has been keen to work with the authorities to provide guidance on general development issues affecting the campus, including the implementation of previous University Masterplans, as well as ongoing maintenance issues and site-specific developments. In order to formalise this joint-working arrangement, a University Steering Group was set up in the mid-1970’s which comprised representatives of both the University and the relevant Local Authorities. This has continued to operate over the years and has been hugely successful in involving all parties in the development of the University.

3.3 Now that the current Masterplan is being promoted by way of an Outline Planning Application, the Steering Group has proved to be an effective and established forum for debating the main issues in relation to the campus expansion as well as gleaning valuable advice from the Local Authorities and officers from strategic regional organisations (e.g. AWM and GOWM) on how best to progress the proposals through the planning process.

3.4 Since June 2005, the Steering Group has met regularly to exchange ideas and provide update reports on the progress of the Masterplan proposals in advance of the submission of the Planning Application. Following submission of the Planning Application, it is expected that the Steering Group will continue to operate on a regular basis to guide the implementation of the latest Masterplan, and advise the University on its ongoing development strategy.

3.5 The deliberations of the Steering Group have been informed by two sub groups: the Transport Sub-group and the Design Sub-group.

3.6 The Transport Sub-group comprises representatives of the Local Highway Authorities, both Coventry City Council and Warwickshire County Council, the Highways Agency (responsible for the A46), the University, and its technical representatives. The Transport Sub-group, which met regularly between July 2005 - Jan 2007, has been responsible for developing the transport strategy for the University which is set out in the submitted Transport Assessment and Travel Plan. Once the planning application has been submitted the Transport Sub-group will continue at regular intervals during the Masterplan period to monitor and guide the implementation of the transport strategy through the Travel Plan.

3.7 Similarly, the Design Sub-group comprises both Urban Design and Landscape Design representatives from Coventry City Council, Warwick District Council and Warwickshire County Council, the University, and its technical representatives. The Design Sub-group met regularly between July 2005 - Aug 2006 and has worked together to formulate an acceptable masterplan for the site.

Local Authority Forum Meetings

3.8 Coventry City Council has been particularly active in promoting a number of forums as part of the Council’s efforts to comply with new planning legislation. The Council’s Statement of Community Involvement draws attention to a series of existing forums that prospective Planning Applicants can use as a vehicle to involve the public in consultation.

3.9 Forum meetings referenced in Coventry’s Statement of Community Involvement include the ‘Development Forum’, the ‘Coventry by Design Forum’ and the “South West Area Forum”. The Project Team have presented the Masterplan proposals to all of these groups.
Reference is made to the Development Forum in the Coventry SCI. Paragraph 6.26 states: “...Developers are encouraged to undertake targeted consultation in the local area when formulating their proposals. They are then given the opportunity to make a presentation to all Members of the Council and any other interested parties. They should describe their proposal and explain how they believe the proposal relates to the Coventry Development Plan (CDP) 2001, how it fits in with local needs and preferences and any other matters that they consider support their proposal. A question and answer session on factual matters follows...”

Members of the Project Team attended the meeting of the Development Forum on 19 January 2006. A presentation was given to local Councillors, Council Officers and representatives of community groups covering the background to the University’s current status, the need for growth and the key objectives of the proposed Masterplan.

A question and answer session was held after the presentation. Questions were asked and answered about the likely increase in student numbers; housing more students on campus; proposals for managing the increase in travel demand; car parking on campus; local consultation arrangements; and the Warwick District Local Plan. Following the meeting, the views of the councillors who attended the meeting on the University’s proposals were fed back to Turley Associates, and were given detailed consideration by the Project Team.

Members of the Project Team attended a meeting of the ‘Coventry by Design’ Forum on 28 February 2006. Their presentation focused on the key design principles of the proposed expansion and drew upon the relevant constraints that had led the team towards the current Masterplan proposals.

At the end of the presentation an open session was held in which the audience were encouraged to make their own comments on the proposals and make suggestions for relevant alterations where appropriate. Questions were asked and answered about the likely height of new buildings; connections with the Canley Regeneration Project (on which there had been a separate presentation, by David Lock Associates); the landscaping strategy; transport issues; and the implications for the University of having to deal with two different local authorities.

Several members of the Project Team attended the City Council’s South West Area Forum on 6 April 2006, which was hosted by the University. A presentation was made about the University and its development proposals (including the associated transport issues) to an audience of local Ward councillors, City Council officers, and members of community groups and the general public.

In the feedback session that followed, questions were asked and answered about the height of new buildings; possible improvements to Gibbet Hill Road; and the Green Travel Plan.

The University also presented its proposals to the Warwick District Planning Forum, on 16 February 2006. This Forum, which was attended by several District councillors and representatives of community and interest groups, received presentations about the University and its plans from senior members of the Project Team.

Questions asked by members of the Planning Forum included whether the scale of future development would be similar to the last ten years; whether the expansion would lead to more overseas students studying at the University; and how development at the University would be covered by the Warwick District Local Plan.
4. Consultation with Stakeholder Groups and the Local Community

Strategic Principles

4.1 From the beginning of the project to the production of a new Masterplan, the University of Warwick has been committed to involving all relevant stakeholders in the process. This commitment is in keeping with the spirit of the planning legislation, and supports our strategic objective to engage fully with our local and regional community and to be a “good neighbour”.

4.2 We define “stakeholders” as being all those individuals or organisations who have an interest in the University’s activities – which means our staff and students; interest groups within the University community; local residents; local authorities and their elected members; business and community groups; and the local media.

4.3 The University’s communications and consultation strategy has been based on the principle of “front-loading”, that is to involve stakeholders during the period when proposals are being developed, rather than after they have been set in stone. Undertaking this “pre-application consultation” means that the University has been able to listen to people’s views and to take them into account before the planning application is submitted.

Pre-application Consultation Programme

4.4 The programme to involve stakeholders in the development of the University’s plans has so far consisted of three elements:

Phase 1 – Publication of Outline Proposals (November/December 2005)

4.5 In November 2005, the University began its consultation programme, by promoting its outline proposals to the local community, and other stakeholders in the sub-region of Coventry and Warwickshire.

4.6 Launching the external consultation involved:

a) A special edition of the University’s external newsletter “CommUnity”, outlining the University’s vision for the future, why it needed to expand and the potential development areas, was circulated to more than 4,000 local residents
b) Local Ward councillors were briefed on the proposals and the consultation programme, by telephone or email
c) Personal copies of the newsletter were posted to all councillors in the relevant local authorities, and local MPs
d) Copies of the newsletter were mailed to around 250 other local people and organisations (see Appendix A), and e-mailed to a number of community and business organisations such as the Coventry Partnership, the Coventry Empowerment Network, the Coventry & Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce, the Burton Green Residents’ Association, the Westwood Business Park and the Westwood Heath Neighbourhood Watch.
e) A new section was created on the University’s website, explaining the proposals and providing an on-line feedback facility
f) A press release was issued to local media
g) Information was provided for the websites of Warwickshire County Council, the Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce, and Burton Green Residents’ Association, all of which publicised the University’s consultation programme
h) A visit was made to the Coventry Resource Centre for the Blind, to provide information for its members
i) Exhibitions were held on campus, at Warwick Arts Centre, over three days at the end of November, and these were “manned” by members of the Project Team
j) Exhibition panels were displayed in the main reception area of University House throughout December 2005
4.7 During the same period, as an integral part of the consultation programme, the University’s proposals were promoted to the University community (i.e. students and staff), so that they could also input their views to the Project Team as the plans were developed.

4.8 This internal consultation included:

a) The outline proposals were highlighted on “insite”, the University intranet
b) All staff received a copy of the internal magazine “CommUnicate”, which had a major feature on the proposals (the magazine is also sent to some students, Sabbatical Officers in the Students’ Union, all members of the University Court, members of the Retired Staff Associations and all the companies on the University of Warwick Science Park – total circulation of over 7,000)
c) An all-day “Drop-in Session” was arranged for staff living in the CV4 7 and CV4 8 postal areas, to look at the plans and talk to the Project Team
d) A touring exhibition on the proposals visited all the main parts of the campus
e) The development proposals were discussed at one of the termly Staff General Meetings (which was attended, among others, by members of the Warwick Environment Network).

4.9 Follow-up presentations were made to a number of University special interest groups and decision-making bodies, including:
- Environment Committee
- Building Committee
- Steering Committee
- Bicycle User Group
- Senior Officers & Departmental Administrators’ Group
- Officers’ Group

**Phase 2 – External Stakeholder Meetings (January – September 2006)**

4.10 Once the outline plans had been successfully disseminated to local people and organisations, the University embarked on an extensive programme during 2006 to go out into the community to present the detailed proposals, and to answer questions about them.

4.11 Presentations were made to several local authority groups (including the three Forums highlighted in Section 3), residents’ associations and other networks in Coventry and Warwickshire. At all these events, the Director of Estates and/or other senior members of the Project Team gave a presentation, and then took part in a full question and answer session.

4.12 A full list of the external stakeholder meetings attended is shown in Appendix B. In addition, discussions were held with representatives of the Kenilworth Town Centre Partnership and the Crackley Residents’ Association, and with Jeremy Wright MP.

**Phase 3 – Community update (Summer 2006)**

4.13 To ensure that as much information as possible was shared with the local community, and that everyone interested had an opportunity to comment on the proposals, a final phase of pre-application consultation was carried out during the Summer of 2006. This involved circulating to local residents, councillors and other stakeholders a second “CommUnity” newsletter, which included a report on progress with the project, and invited them to a further series of public exhibitions.

4.14 These “drop-in sessions” were held off campus, in three separate locations in Canley and Kenilworth, over five different days and at different times, to make them as accessible as possible to local people. Handouts were available, providing more details of how the developments on campus might look, and members of the Project Team were on hand at all times to answer questions.
4.15 In November 2006, members of the Project Team answered questions about the University’s proposals at an event at the Midlands Sports Centre, which had been arranged as part of the Canley Regeneration scheme.

**Ongoing Publicity**

4.16 Over the past year, either by press release or one-to-one briefing, the University has provided information on the campus development plans to the local media, so that the general public could be kept informed.

4.17 As a result, articles have appeared in the following:
- Leamington Spa Courier, 25/11/05
- Kenilworth Weekly News, 2/12/05
- Leamington Spa Courier, 2/12/05
- Kenilworth Weekly News, 10/2/06
- Regenerating Canley newsletter, March 06
- Coventry Evening Telegraph (and iccoventry.co.uk), 7/4/06
- Coventry Evening Telegraph (letters), 11/4/06
- Coventry Citizen, 13/4/06
- Coventry Evening Telegraph, 21/4/06
- Kenilworth Weekly News 23/6/06
- Coventry Evening Telegraph, 26/6/06
- Birmingham Post, 30/6/06
- Kenilworth Weekly News, 30/6/06
- Kenilworth Weekly News, 14/7/06

4.18 In addition, the University’s website has been used to keep external stakeholders abreast of the development plans. It has been updated on a regular basis, and has been particularly useful as a means of imparting large amounts of information, and for inviting and responding to feedback. As at 21 May 2007, the campus development section of the website had attracted a total of 42,315 “hits”. During the same period, the campus development pages on the University intranet have had more than 17,000 hits.

4.19 Following the arrival at Warwick of its new Vice-Chancellor, the University community has been engaged in a wide-ranging process to determine its strategy for the future. During this process, which involved extensive consultation with University staff, the opportunity was taken to review the main drivers behind the campus development proposals, which confirmed that they were still relevant. The Spring 2007 issue of the CommUnity newsletter, distributed in April, included an item updating local residents and other external stakeholders on progress with the project.

4.20 Copies of the main publicity materials used during the consultation programme, which demonstrate the range of media used, are shown in Appendix C.

**Feedback on the Proposals**

4.21 At every stage of the pre-application consultation programme, facilities have been put in place to elicit feedback on the University’s proposals. The initial newsletter circulated widely in November 2005 contained a tear-off form on which to record questions or comments; the external and internal websites have contained on-line feedback forms; and special comment forms were available at every exhibition and drop-in session. In addition, the Warwick Blogs site was monitored, to pick up the views of staff and students.
a) Feedback from Local Community

4.22 In total the University has so far received 77 written submissions from local people or other external interested parties, via one or other of the feedback mechanisms. These ranged from brief comments on the University or its development plans, to detailed questions.

4.23 In addition to the written feedback, the University has answered hundreds of questions and enquiries made verbally at the various drop-in sessions and external meetings.

4.24 Three particular generic issues emerged from the external feedback. Firstly, the University received many favourable comments about its reputation, the way the campus had been managed in the past, and the positive benefits which the University brought to the local and regional community.

4.25 Secondly, the feedback showed that environmental issues – including building in the Green Belt – were important to local people, and should be dealt with sensitively by the University as it moved forward.

4.26 Finally, many local people and organisations were concerned about peak hour traffic congestion on the roads near to the University, and worried that the development plans would make things worse.

b) Feedback from University Community

4.27 The majority of feedback from staff and students concentrated on transport issues – particularly on the need for improved cycle, public transport and vehicle access to the University, and facilities for cyclists on campus. There was a lot of support for the Bus Rapid Transit scheme, and some correspondents promoted the use of solar panels on campus buildings and other environmentally friendly ideas.

4.28 Staff members expressed concerns about the proposals to reduce the amount of free car parking on campus and to discourage single-occupancy car journeys to and from campus.

Response to the Feedback

4.29 With its specialist consultants, the University has spent a lot of time sifting through the comments received, and has taken all the feedback into account whilst refining the proposals. Answers to the “Frequently Asked Questions” (see Appendix D) were posted on the University website, as well as some general comments/questions.

4.30 These are some of the ways the proposals have been revised, as a result of the feedback received:

a) Stronger “connections” have been designed between the Westwood campus and Canley, putting in an east-west pedestrian/cycle route from the new Tennis Centre towards Mitchell Avenue
b) The University is looking at whether it can build new student housing in Canley, as part of the regeneration of that area, and is now proposing to include some new staff residences on or near to the campus
c) Proposed improvements to the Gibbet Hill Road/Kenilworth Road junction, and Gibbet Hill Road itself, are being discussed with Coventry City Council
d) The service and pedestrian access to the campus, from Lynchgate Road (Cannon Park Shopping Centre), will be opened up for public transport access, and limited University car park users (but not for general traffic)
e) The Loop Road on the western side of the campus is being considered for through traffic
f) The Bus Rapid Transit scheme, which was initiated by Coventry City Council, has been incorporated into the proposals.
In response to comments made during the consultation period, the University has confirmed on several occasions that:

a) It is not planning to close off Gibbet Hill Road to through traffic;
b) The intention is not to expand beyond the existing boundaries of the campus, but to site future developments on areas which are still vacant amongst existing developments on both sides of Gibbet Hill Road;
c) None of the proposed development areas are any nearer to the nearby town of Kenilworth than existing developments;
d) It is looking at housing more students and staff on campus and, if a possible site for student accommodation adjacent to the campus became available, it would be considered;
e) It is not intending purchasing the Cannon Park Shopping Centre.
5. Conclusions

5.1 The University of Warwick has carried out an extensive pre-application consultation programme, engaging with a wide range of interested parties across Coventry and Warwickshire. It has listened to the opinions, ideas and concerns expressed over many months, and taken account of these in formulating its detailed proposals for the future development of the campus.

5.2 The University has used a wide variety of communications media – letters, newsletters, emails, briefing notes, websites, presentations, exhibitions – to ensure that the consultation programme reached as many people as possible, and was as thorough as it could be.

5.3 The consultation programme has demonstrated that the University is committed to community engagement, and this will be continued during future stages of the planning process.
List of Appendices

Appendix A – Organisations to whom the ‘CommUnity’ newsletter was sent in November 2005

Appendix B – External stakeholder meetings attended during Phase 2 of the consultation programme

Appendix C – Publicity materials used by the University during the consultation programme

Appendix D – Frequently Asked Questions, and the answers given (as posted on the University website)
Appendix A - List of Organisations to whom the special “CommUnity” newsletter was sent in November 2005

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<td>Adult Learning Inspectorate</td>
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<td>Advantage West Midlands</td>
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<td>Arena Coventry Ltd</td>
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<td>Arts Council England, West Midlands</td>
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<td>Asian Community Equality Centre</td>
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<td>Association of Colleges</td>
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<td>Balsall Common Primary School</td>
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<td>Barclays Bank plc</td>
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<td>Birmingham and Solihull Learning and Skills Council</td>
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<td>Birmingham Forward</td>
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<td>Birmingham Future</td>
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<td>Birmingham International Airport Ltd</td>
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<td>Birmingham Mailbox Ltd</td>
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<td>Birmingham Repertory Theatre</td>
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<td>Bishop of Birmingham</td>
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<td>Brandon Marsh Nature Centre</td>
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<td>Burton Green Residents’ Association</td>
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<td>Business in the Community</td>
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<td>Canley Community Fire Station</td>
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<td>Canley Evangelical Church</td>
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<td>Canley Residents Action Group</td>
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<td>Cannon Park Primary School</td>
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<td>CBI West Midlands Region</td>
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<td>Charter Primary School</td>
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<td>City College Coventry</td>
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<td>Common Purpose, Coventry and Warwickshire</td>
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<td>Confederation of West Midlands’ Chamber of Commerce</td>
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<td>Connexions Coventry and Warwickshire</td>
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<td>Council for Voluntary Service Warwick District</td>
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Coventry Education Action Zone
Coventry Muslim Resource Centre
Coventry Partnership
Coventry Primary Care Trust
Coventry Refugee Centre
Coventry Resource Centre for the Blind
Coventry Roteract
Coventry Rugby Club
Coventry University
Horizon Volunteering, Coventry University Students’ Union
Coventry Voluntary Service Council
Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Partnership Ltd
CVOne Ltd
Earlsdon Conservation and Development Group
Earlsdon Primary School
Earlsdon Rugby Club
English Heritage, Kenilworth Castle
Exhall Grange School
Four Winds’ Bed and Breakfast
Friends of the Earth (Coventry)
Government Office for the West Midlands
Greater Warwickshire Sport
Heart of England Business and Enterprise School
Heart of England Community Foundation
Henley College
Hereward College
Institute of Directors, West Midlands
Jaguar Cars
Kenilworth Chamber Events and Promotions Group
Kenilworth Chamber of Trade
Kenilworth Rotary Club
Kenilworth School
Kenilworth Society
Kenilworth Town Council
Leamington and Warwick Rotaract
Learning and Skills Council Coventry and Warwickshire
Limbrick Wood Baptist Church
Limbrick Wood Primary School
Lord Lieutenant of the West Midlands
Millennium Point and Thinktank, Birmingham
Newey Properties
Nuneaton and Bedworth Council for Voluntary Service
Pakistani Welfare Association
Powergen UK
President of the Methodist Conference
PSA Peugeot Citroen
RASE
Regen WM
Regional Action West Midlands
Rochester Road Area Residents’ Association, Earlsdon
Rotary Club of Kenilworth
Royal Leamington Spa Town Council
Rugby Borough Council
Severn Trent Laboratories
SEWA International
Shree Krishna Community Centre
Sidney Stringer School
Solihull Borough Council
South Warwickshire Business Partnership
Sports England, West Midlands
St Oswald’s Church
Stoneleigh and Ashow Joint Parish Council
Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Stratford-upon-Avon College
The Coventry Society
The Indian Community Centre
The United Reform Church
The Varsity Public House
Tile Hill North Residents’ Association
Tile Hill South Residents’ Association
Tile Hill Wood School
TUI UK Ltd
University Hospitals and Warwickshire NHS Trust
Warwick Diabetes Care
Warwick District Council
Warwick Town Council
Warwickshire Association of Youth Clubs
Warwickshire College
Warwickshire County Council
Warwickshire Education Business Partnership
Warwickshire Police
Warwickshire Rural Community Council
Wellesbourne Parish Council
West Midlands Business Council
West Midlands Local Government Association
West Midlands Police
West Midlands Regional Assembly
West Midlands Regional Observatory
Westwood Church
Westwood School
Whitefriars Housing Group
Appendix B - External Stakeholder Meetings attended during Phase 2 of Pre-application Consultation

19 January 2006 – Coventry Development Forum

23 January 2006 – Westwood Business Park Residents & 13 April 2006

9 February 2006 – Stoneleigh & Ashow Joint Parish Council

16 February 2006 – Warwick District Planning Forum

28 February 2006 – Coventry by Design Forum

16 March 2006 – Kenilworth Town Council

6 April 2006 – Coventry South West Area Forum

11 May 2006 – Kenilworth Business Breakfast

30 May 2006 – Warwickshire County Council (Leadership Team)

11 July 2006 – Advantage West Midlands (Partnership Managers)

7 September 2006 – Coventry Ambassadors’ Group
Appendix C - Publicity Materials used during the Consultation Programme

1. "Community", the University’s newsletter for the local community (special issue - November 2005)
What is Proposed?

Based on the various drivers explained on page 2, the University has calculated the amount of development it will need over a 15 year period – broken down into various types of land use:

- academic teaching and research
- student accommodation
- support services (including central administration, library services, social, catering and sports buildings)
- temporary buildings (located in the north, south, and on the west side of the campus)
- student union, conference facilities and new initiatives

It has also assessed the amount of land available for future development. All present most of the University activity is concentrated on the eastern (Gibbet Hill) side of Gibbet Hill Road, and there are still a number of sites where development is possible. However, the year's land usage due to the west of Gibbet Hill and Hall close to the north, and therefore the University's Development Plan includes proposals for continued development on the University's lands in the west of Gibbet Hill Road. These proposals are designed to respond to the local and national planning guidance for the area and the current land use of buildings. They are also designed to respond to the University's need to increase its capacity for teaching and research. The main areas of development are intended to provide new or improved teaching and research facilities, as well as new parking spaces and other amenities.

How you can get involved

Our proposals have been developed over many months in conjunction with a number of internal and external partners - including the Steering Group of all local authorities concerned.

But now everyone else who has an interest in the University's future can have their say. There are various ways of doing this (the deadline for submissions is Friday 16th December):

Website

On our website and take a look at our special page on the University's draft plan. Then you can fill out our online form and provide us with your comments. You can access this page via the University website: www.warwick.ac.uk

Drop-in Sessions

On Tuesday 16th November (12-4pm) and Thursday 1st December (1-4pm), we are holding "drop-in" sessions at University Estates. The local plans for 2010 will be displayed and there will be University representatives on hand to answer questions. We will also take comments, so you can make suggestions to our comments.

Reply Slip

Alternatively, you could leave the slip below and return it to the address shown with your comments.

Comments Welcome

If you have any questions or comments about this newsletter - or any other aspect of the University of Warwick - then we would love to hear from you.

Please contact us by E-mail at@warwick.ac.uk or telephone 01902 3597

The Communications Office, University House, University of Warwick, Kidderminster Road, Coventry CV4 7WU

My comments about the University of Warwick's draft plan for 2010:

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

Name of contact:

Address:

Daytime phone:

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PAGE 4

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PAGE 4
The Process

The University will be submitting its next campus development plan to Coventry City Council and Warwick District Council in the form of an "Outline Planning Application" by Christmas.

Did you know?

The bulk of the University land was donated by Coventry City Council & Warwickshire County Council in 1969. The Warwick campus straddles the boundary between the City of Coventry and the County of Warwickshire. The border is the Gibbet Hill Road.

Historically Warwick’s campus development plans have been drawn up in two-year cycles, the last in 1994, but this is such a small timescale for the University that proposed plans for physical development have been created for each ten to fifteen year period.

From now until 9 December the University will be carrying out campus-wide and external consultation, all feedback will be carefully considered and the plan will be amended before submission to the planning authority.

Terminology

The Development Plan is an internal plan which documents the University’s proposed physical development over the next 10-15 years. It outlines which areas of University owned land might be developed and what sort of use each area might be put to.

It builds on all of the previous plans, preserving those aspects which have worked well and adapting those which have been less successful, while incorporating new initiatives to meet the future needs of the University.

The Outline Planning Application (OPA) is a statutory submission which seeks local authority approval for the proposals in the Development Plan.

In essence the University now needs to earmark any areas of land that it might possibly need to develop in the next ten to fifteen years. The University is committed to not developing any areas not marked on the plan.

After the OPA has been approved by the local planning authorities the University will still have to apply for planning permission for each individual building or development.

Why the University Needs to Develop

The Government vision for HE:

- Requires 50% of young people aged 18-30 to participate in higher education
- Outlines increased investment in the very best institutions
- Requires that universities increase the quality and quantity of knowledge transfer activity.

Did you know?

Over 16,000 local people are involved in University learning courses at the University.

Proposed Developments

A central aspiration of the Development Plan is to create a safe, lively environment that encourage a sense of community as well as meeting the needs of University members.

Did you know?

The Warwick Arts Centre attracts over 200,000 visitors a year to over 2000 individual events.

The plan does not include designs for individual buildings, instead it forms a flexible framework for phased expansion so that it can respond to changing needs and opportunities. It does include:

- A framework for the location of buildings, key spaces, squares and landscaping
- Zoning of academic departments and other initiatives to provide a focus
- Management of pedestrian and vehicular movement, including parking

Numbers – over a fifteen year period:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Usage</th>
<th>Land Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>06.000m²</td>
<td>Teaching &amp; research</td>
<td>06.000m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.000m²</td>
<td>Support Space (Administrative, Social, Sports)</td>
<td>24.000m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.100m²</td>
<td>Residential Space</td>
<td>24.100m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33.000m²</td>
<td>Other (Arts Centre, Students' Union, Management Training, New Inshouses)</td>
<td>33.000m²</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Areas and potential uses:

The Estates Office has renewed the development capacity of the University land. The west side of the Gibbet Hill Road (the Coventry land), at full capacity could only accommodate half of the proposed development.

The University Outline Planning Application therefore remains to be submitted to the Councils on the west side of the Gibbet Hill Road (the Warwickshire land) which is in the green belt.

The plan below shows the full extent of all the University land Warwick would like to earmark for potential development within the next 15 years.

Effort has been made to create a balanced feel with a mixture of different sized uses. This is to generate more focal points of activity across the campus and improve the connection between existing and future centres of activity.
of activity. Infill also has been identified where possible and
buildings on undeveloped areas will be designed to minimise
any negative environmental and visual impact.

The Gibbet Hill Road

The Gibbet Hill Road forms a barrier between the two areas of
central campus. The Development Plan seeks to overcome
this with improved cycle and pedestrian links across the road.
Congestion will be reduced using controlled passage and
by creating a roundabout where University Road meets Gibbet
Hill Road by the Arts Centre. This will reduce traffic on the
central campus portion of Gibbet Hill Road.

Sustainable Development

Each of the potential sites and routes examined on the
Development Plan will be assessed, according to its perceived
view, for economic, social and environmental impact. The
investigation will include:
- Noise and vibration
- Air quality
- Ground contamination
- Water resources
- Light pollution
- Archaeology
- Ecology and nature
- Conservation
- Visual assessment
- Socio-Economic Impact
- Traffic and transport
- Implications
- All of this information is
- input into suitability to the
- Local Planning Authority in
- the form of an "Environmental
- Statement".

Movement Plan

The main aims of the
- movement plan are:
- reducing the proportion of
- single occupancy car
- journeys to and from
- campus
- integrating the access to
- the east and west of Gibbet Hill Road
- improving internal routes around campus and links to the external network for
- pedestrians and cyclists
- providing and improving adequate car parking
- ensuring that public transport is
- integrated into the plan.

The new developments will have additional car parking provided based upon the numbers of staff and
students occupying the buildings contained in a development site and an existing core of a corresponding
amount of parking spaces will be provided elsewhere.

Find out more

To find out more about the Development Plan, and the consultation and application process, you can:
- Attend one of the exhibitions which will be held on campus during November and December (see
  flyer for more details)
- Come along to a presentation on Campus Development
- Consult a reference copy of the Development Plan at the Library or the Estates Office
- Read the online Campus Development pages at www.warwick.ac.uk/go/campusdevelopment

To give your comments on any aspect of the Plan email: development@warwick.ac.uk. With the subject
- on the Campus Development pages on Insite, or write to Internal Communications, 2nd Floor South,
  University House.
3. New section on the University’s website dedicated to the campus development project
4. Information provided for staff and students on the University’s Intranet
CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Consultation Provides Useful Feedback

Many people and organisations have responded to the consultation on the proposals to develop the campus, with a wide range of issues raised by them. Over the last eight years, many improvements and changes have been made in the area, particularly in the University village and the local community. However, there is a need for more consultation and involvement of the local community in the development of the campus. The consultation process has been very successful, with a high level of response from the local community. Many people have expressed their views and concerns, and have provided useful feedback. The consultation process has been very successful, and has helped to shape the proposals for the development of the campus.

Summary of our Proposals

The University wants to increase its footprint on campus by 20-40%, which is in line with the government's policy to increase student participation in higher education. The proposals are in line with the consultation process and the feedback from the local community.

The proposals include:

- A new library on the campus
- A new student centre
- A new sports facility
- A new dining hall
- A new residential block

These proposals are in line with the government's policy to increase student participation in higher education and to increase the footprint on campus. The proposals are in line with the consultation process and the feedback from the local community.

MORE DROP-IN SESSIONS THIS MONTH!

To make sure that everyone who is interested in the proposals has a chance to hear them, and to provide more detailed information about the proposals, we have arranged a series of drop-in sessions in the local area.

- 9-10am on Wednesday 21st June at the University Centre
- 12-1pm on Thursday 22nd June at the local community centre
- 2-3pm on Friday 23rd June at the local library

For more information, please visit our website: www.warwick.ac.uk/community
Why expand? The University proposes to expand its campus by around 30-40%, because it is:
- contributing to a government policy to increase participation in higher education
- responding to the continued increase in demand from students to study at Warwick
- although student numbers are only likely to rise by around 200 a year
- planning to double research capacity, as this is relatively small compared to similar universities – which could lead to an increase in staff numbers
- striving to become a truly world class institution, which can continue to bring many benefits to the local and regional community.

Where will the expansion take place?
Our latest Development Plan envisaged that we will continue to focus on the Coventry (eastern) side of Gibbet Hill Road, where most of the current University buildings are located, but there is not enough capacity there to meet our requirements for new teaching, research and support services and facilities. So we intend that around half of the new development proposed will be located on the Warwickshire (western) side of Gibbet Hill Road, which is in the Green Belt.

Building in the Green Belt
The University’s land in Warwickshire was already in the Green Belt when it was given to the University in the 1990s. Since then, a number of buildings on this land have been granted planning permission because we have been able to demonstrate “very special circumstances” as to why we should be allowed to build there. The areas of the Warwickshire land which we now want to expand further are still broadly within the boundaries established in the original and more recent 1994 Development Plans.

What have we learned from the Consultation?
Three significant issues have emerged during the consultation:
1. The University’s Standing in the Local Community - we have received many favourable comments about the reputation of the University, the responsible way in which the campus has been developed and managed in the past, and the positive benefits which the University brings to the local and regional community.

2. The Need for Sensitive Development - the feedback shows that environmental issues – including building in the Green Belt – are important to local people, and should be dealt with sensitively by the University as it moves forward.

3. Our response - we will continue to be a “good neighbour” and develop the campus in a responsible manner. We will publish a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment, and we have committed that none of the proposed developments will be any nearer to the town of Gibbet Hill Road than existing developments.

4. Transport - many local people and organisations are concerned about a peak hour traffic congestion on the roads near to the University, and worried that our development plans will make things worse.

Our response - through our transport consultants, we have carried out additional studies/traffic flows which showed that only around 30-40% of traffic on Gibbet Hill Road is University traffic. Towards this, we have proposed a more sustainable transport approach.

What has changed as a result of the Consultation?
There are some of the ways we have revised our proposals, as a result of the consultations:
- we have designed stronger “connections” between the campus and Canley, putting in new east-west pedestrian/cycle routes from the proposed new Tennis Centre towards Mitchell Avenue
- we are looking at whether we can build new student housing in Canley, as part of the regeneration of that area, and we propose to provide some new staff residences on or near the campus

- the service and pedestrian access to the campus, from Lychlake Road (Canren Park Shopping Centre), will be improved for public transport access, and limited University car parking, but not for general traffic

- proposed improvements to the Gibbet Hill Road/Kestal Road junction are being discussed with Coventry City Council

- we are considering using the Loop Road on the western side of the campus to carry through traffic

- the Bus Rapid Transit scheme, which was initiated by Coventry City Council, has been incorporated into the proposals.

More details of the Proposed Development
A “Masterplan”, based on the University Development Plan, has been prepared to describe the University’s proposals. The Masterplan aims to reframe the main structure of routes, spaces and landscape which have been formed by previous Development Plans and are an important feature of the campus; and to promote a lively academic and social character across the estate.

Although the Masterplan does not include designs for individual buildings, our architects have undertaken a series of “character assessments” to show how each part of the campus could be developed, together with sketches of the same areas. As an example, these sketches were prepared for the part of the campus centred on the Oval on University Road.

This diagram shows the strategic design approach to the masterplan, emphasizing the key features.
Because of the changing needs of any University, a degree of flexibility has to be incorporated into the Masterplan. The drawing below is a draft of the overall plan which sets out the parameters for development; the brown shapes show areas where development can occur (though limited by the figures in the table), the green shows areas which the University will commit to retain as landscaped or open land, and the beige shows areas which form the infrastructure of routes and places as per the concept diagram.

For further information on any of the University’s development proposals please visit our website at: www2.warwick.ac.uk/about/2020 or contact our Communications office on 024 7657 4301.
The plan below suggests how uses might be distributed across the developments. Where the plan differs from the 1994 plan (but is similar to the original 1966 plan) is in the spine of academic development onto Warwickshire Land. We believe that this mix of uses would stimulate a more vibrant University community in these areas.

This diagram shows the strategic design approach to the masterplan, emphasizing the two key axes – from University House to the end of University Road (University Road Axis), and from Academic Square down Library Road and across into the Warwickshire Land (Library Road Axis). From these, further secondary routes have been identified to give strong pedestrian and visual connections across the campus. The drawings overleaf show how this strategy could be implemented. The rectangular and oval shapes indicate public squares on these routes.
The Masterplan does not include designs for individual buildings, but it does set down parameters such as height, use, building lines and position of entrances which establish a visual and social character for the campus. The Parameters Plan is shown on the back of this leaflet. The plan below shows an indicative layout of new buildings (shown in orange) based on the Masterplan parameters.

"Character Area Studies" shown below show how each part of the campus could be developed, including sketches of how the area might look. These sketches are indicative suggestions of how these areas might be developed, rather than detailed proposals for buildings or landscaped areas.

- The majority of the campus, particularly the area west of Gibson Hill Road, is retained as green space.
- We do not falling any woods, copses, important trees or hedgerows.
- We will be installing significant volumes of new planting.
- No important views will be affected.
- None of the proposed outline developments will be any nearer to the town of Knutsford than existing University buildings.
Towards 2020
DEVELOPING WARWICK’S CAMPUS

The University has reached a crucial stage in the long running but vital project to develop its campus, in order for it to grow into a truly world class institution by the year 2020.

This summer, an outline planning application for the local authorities, outlining permission to develop the University site in a planned and sensitive way, was submitted and approved, allowing work to begin on the first phase of the development.

The University, through Warwick Estates Limited, has submitted an outline planning application to Warwick District Council for the development of a new campus, including the construction of new buildings and the conversion of existing ones.

The application is for a new campus within the existing campus boundary, which includes the former Warwick College site, and will be designed to meet the needs of students, staff, and the wider community.

The new campus will provide new teaching and research facilities, as well as improved student accommodation and support services.

Local involvement
The project team have engaged with the local community throughout the planning process, and have held several public meetings to discuss the proposals and seek feedback.

The University has also established a Community Engagement Group, which includes representatives from local authorities, community groups, and Warwick residents.

The Group has been involved in the development of the proposals, and has provided feedback on the plans throughout the planning process.

Response
The proposals have received a positive response from the local community, who have welcomed the prospect of a new campus and the benefits it will bring.

The University is committed to working in partnership with the local community, and will continue to engage with them throughout the development process.

TOWARDS 2020 - NEW FUNDING

The University has been awarded a new funding package from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), which will provide additional funding for the development of the campus.

This funding will enable the University to continue with the development of the campus, including the construction of new buildings and the conversion of existing ones.

The funding will also support the development of new teaching and research facilities, as well as improved student accommodation and support services.

The University is committed to engaging with the local community throughout the development process, and is keen to hear the views of local people on the proposals.

The University will continue to update the local community on the progress of the development, and will welcome feedback on the proposals.
Appendix D - Frequently Asked Questions (as posted on the University website)

1. What are the proposals?
The University intends to submit an outline planning application to the relevant authorities, setting out the University’s vision for the future and its plans for development of its campus over the next 10 years.

The planning application will seek endorsement of a ‘Masterplan’ which will provide a framework for the scale and location of future development.

Since the University was established in 1964, its development has been guided by a succession of Masterplans. The last one covered the period 1994-2004, so we now need a new up-to-date version.

2. What is a Masterplan?
The Masterplan will provide a broad framework for the future physical development of the University campus – including provision for teaching, research, academic, support services and social facilities. Whilst it does not include designs for individual buildings, it does seek to define plots where new development might be best located and to establish the maximum scale, massing and height for each of these locations.

New planting, landscaping, access and other infrastructure proposals are also incorporated in the Masterplan to help ensure any future development integrates well with its setting and has a positive impact on the environment.

The Masterplan will form the main document submitted to the local authorities, seeking outline planning permission.

3. Have you discussed these proposals with the local planning authorities?
Yes – they have been closely involved from the outset and their feedback has informed the University’s overriding strategy as well as the more detailed matters in relation to the design of the Masterplan and its related provisions. Our local authorities are members of the Steering Group which is guiding the proposals.

4. Who are you consulting with, and what arrangements have you put in place for local people to make their views known?
Our consultation has been based on the principle of ‘front-loading’ – which means that everyone has a chance to give us their comments on our draft plans before an outline planning application is submitted to the relevant authorities. This is very much in keeping with the new planning legislation.

In November 2005, a special issue of our ‘CommUnity’ newsletter - outlining the University’s vision for the future, explaining why it needed to expand and the potential development areas – was sent out to more than 4000 local residents and hundreds of other interested parties.

These local ‘stakeholders’ were invited to record and submit their comments using a reply slip attached to the newsletter and were also invited to attend ‘drop-in sessions’ on campus to find out more about the plans. A press release was issued to the local media, announcing the plans and advertising the drop-in sessions.

The drop-in sessions were held at Warwick Arts Centre where the plans were on display, and university representatives were on hand to answer any questions. These took place on; Tuesday 29th November, Wednesday 30th November and Thursday 1st December 2005.
Since then, there have also been a number of meetings with local authority groups, including senior members and officers of the local councils, as well as community and residents’ groups to discuss the plans more thoroughly.

5. What comments have you received so far?
Three particular issues have emerged during the consultation.

Firstly, we have received many favourable comments about the reputation of the University, the way the campus has been managed in the past, and the positive benefits which the University brings to the local and regional community.

Secondly, the feedback shows that the environmental issues - including building in the Green Belt - are important to some local people, and should be dealt with sensitively by the University as it moves forward.

Finally, many local people and organisations are concerned about peak hour traffic congestion on the roads near to the University and worried that our development plans will make things worse (it is worth pointing out that only 50-60% of the traffic on Gibbet Hill Road in peak times is University traffic).

With our specialist consultants, we have spent a lot of time sifting through the comments received, and we are taking all the feedback into account whilst refining our proposals.

6. Why should the University be allowed to build in the Green Belt?
The land which the University now owns was donated by Warwickshire County Council and Coventry City Council in the 1960s for the purposes of establishing the university. The Warwickshire land was already in the Green Belt at the time (dating from 1960). Development in the Green Belt started in 1972 with the Cryfield Residences and continued through the 1980s and 90s, with the most recent development being the Heronbank Residences completed in 2004.

The University’s most recent Development Plan (1994-2004) was approved as supplementary planning guidance by both Coventry and Warwick Councils, and all proposals for development have been judged against this document. Applications for building in the Green Belt also have to be referred to the Secretary of State. To date, none has been refused permission.

Not all the land identified for development in the 1994 Plan has been built on and Warwick District Council has recently designated the area as a Major Developed Site in the Green Belt. The current proposals for expansion of the University are largely contained within these boundaries.

The University’s current plans are also no more intrusive into the Green Belt than the approved 1964 and 1966 development plans.

7. Why don’t you just continue to develop the campus on the Coventry land rather than build in the Green Belt?
We do intend to make as much use of the land to the east of Gibbet Hill Road (the Coventry land) as possible, but at full capacity it could only accommodate around half of the proposed development. The University Masterplan Outline Planning Application therefore earmarks land on the west side of Gibbet Hill Road (the Warwickshire land) which is in the Green Belt.

8. Your draft plan only shows zones of development – why is this, and when will you tell local people what actual buildings are planned?
The Development Plan provides a framework for the future development of the University’s Estate. It includes proposals for the location of future buildings, key paths and roads, squares and landscape and zoning of academic departments and other activities.
It does not include designs for individual buildings, although it does seek to promote a visual and social character for the University through design guidelines for building heights and massing, and strategies for landscape, ecology, art and archaeology.

Designs for individual buildings are not included because they will be developed over a period of 10 years, and the University cannot predict exactly what will be needed at this stage. As the funding becomes available for each new building, a design will be developed and submitted for planning approval in the usual way.

9. **Will proposed developments on the Warwickshire land be kept within the area already developed, or are you now starting to encroach towards Kenilworth?**

   None of the proposed development areas are any nearer to the town of Kenilworth than existing University developments, the closest being the existing sports pavilion.

10. **What is the environmental impact of these proposals?**

    The University is carrying out a full Environmental Impact Assessment which will accompany the Masterplan Outline Planning Application. It will look at such things as noise, water, ecology, archaeology and visual impact.

11. **Expansion of the University will obviously lead to an increase in student numbers – where will these students be accommodated?**

    The University’s aspirations are to increase capacity for research at the University rather than significantly expand undergraduate teaching. This would predominantly lead to an increase in staff numbers and postgraduates. There is a need for further student accommodation on campus, particularly to reduce the need for students to travel, and the proposals do envisage new halls of residence built on or near the university campus.

12. **Will your proposed developments increase traffic on the local roads?**

    The expansion of the University over the development period will inevitably lead to an increase in travel demand.

    This increased travel demand will need to be managed to ensure that local roads do not become unacceptably congested as a result of University traffic. To this end the University of Warwick and their technical representatives are working closely with the highway authorities at Coventry City Council, Warwickshire County Council and the Highways Agency to develop a strategy which is acceptable to all. Whilst this is an ongoing process the aim is to create a balanced strategy which promotes the more sustainable transport options; reduces the numbers of students travelling by road to campus (by providing more accommodation on or near campus); manages car parking on campus; and improves key junctions and infrastructure.

    The travel strategy will be set out in accompanying documents to the Outline Planning Application and will be subject to post-submission discussions and agreements. It will need to be flexible enough to respond to the changing transport environment.

13. **What will be done to alleviate congestion on the local roads?**

    Our aim is to create a balanced strategy which improves key road junctions and infrastructure; reduces the number of students and staff driving to campus; restricts car parking on campus; and promotes more sustainable transport options.

    Proposals under discussion include:
    - The amount of car parking for the new development will be severely limited and significantly below that allowable under national planning policy, in order to reduce the amount of traffic generated.
    - Supporting sustainable travel modes through a Travel Plan (see question 14).
    - To alleviate congestion along Gibbet Hill Road on the Central Campus section, the
Library Road exit onto Gibbet Hill Road will be closed except to pedestrians, cyclists and public transport with the creation of a shared use pedestrian friendly environment for Library Road. The existing University Road ‘exit only’ junction near the Arts Centre is to be replaced by an all movement roundabout junction allowing vehicles to enter Central Campus at this end of University Road – thus reducing traffic movements along the Central Campus section of Gibbet Hill Road.

- We also have plans to open out Gibbet Hill Road in the Central Campus area, providing wider crossings, better lighting and other pedestrian safety features. Signal timings at crossings will be reviewed to balance the needs of pedestrians and vehicular traffic.
- Provision of a public transport route from Lynchgate Road into the back of the University in support of the Bus Rapid Transit scheme/improved bus provision. This route could also be made available for University traffic in order to reduce traffic on the northern section of Gibbet Hill Road. This route would not be made available for general road traffic.
- The University is in discussions with Coventry City Council in respect of improvements to the Kenilworth Road/Gibbet Hill Road junction. This requires careful consideration because it is an environmentally sensitive location. Discussions are currently centred on increasing the capacity of the junction with alterations within the existing highway boundary.
- The use of footbridges/subways for pedestrian movements across Gibbet Hill Road – which could separate pedestrians and motor traffic, and thereby improve traffic flow – has been considered. However, these would not help because of the number and complexity of movements, and the length of ramps required for footbridges/subways which would make it very difficult to cater for the majority of movements – and therefore the need for crossings would remain.
- Suggestions have been made that a new road from the A46 to the Westwood Business Park area should be provided. This road would run to the south and west of the University allowing through traffic to by-pass the Kenilworth Road/Gibbet Hill Road junction and the University. A new road such as this would need to be progressed by Warwickshire County Council, the Highways Agency and Coventry City Council. The authorities do not currently have policies supporting this proposal.

14. What will the Travel Plan include?

A Travel Plan will promote alternatives to single occupancy car trips to the University, in line with national and local transport policy, and in support of the University’s carbon management programme. The Travel Plan will identify a number of initiatives and measures to be introduced to meet the targets set by the Highway Authorities. The Travel Plan is likely to include the following:

- A Travel Co-ordinator to develop the Travel Plan and long term strategy.
- Support for a high quality pedestrian/cycle environment with good links to the surrounding areas.
- A Car Park Management Strategy will be phased in to encourage car sharing and a shift to more sustainable modes.
- The development plan will increase the proportion of students living on or near Campus, enabling them to walk or cycle to lectures etc.
- The University will work with the authorities to improve public transport provision.
- Other initiatives which may be developed include: park and ride; provision of online real time bus and rail information/short message service to allow passengers to check punctuality; provision of personalised timetables for individual journeys to work/college; provision of discounted season tickets; staggered arrival times, increased home working and improved tele-conferencing facilities.

The strategy set out in the Travel Plan will have a framework of targets relating to: (a) car parking, (b) proportions of staff travelling by different modes and (c) University generated traffic. Regular surveys and monitoring over the development period will be carried out to measure the performance of the Travel Plan against the targets. Failure to meet the targets would ultimately trigger further measures to assist the Travel Plan objectives; these would be agreed in discussion with the highway authorities.
15. What about improving public transport?

The University is committed to the improvement of public transport serving the University, and will discuss this with the authorities during the course of the planning process. In addition to the Bus Rapid Transit proposal, which is a medium term scheme, a direct bus service between the University, Coventry Park and Ride South and the Coventry rail station/city centre will be considered. Other service improvements which will be considered are to Canley and between Leamington and the University.

16. What are the plans for the Bus Rapid Transit?

The Bus Rapid Transit system is a joint project led by Coventry City Council, and supported by Centro. A bid for funding from Central Government is being progressed for a route running from north Coventry to the city centre and then via Coventry Rail Station to the University. It will provide a high quality, high frequency, limited stop, bus service which will generally operate on its own dedicated route, separate from that of the surrounding traffic, thereby resembling a tram. The idea is that it combines the quality of a tram/metro and the flexibility of buses. It can operate on exclusive transit-ways, high occupancy vehicle lanes, expressways or ordinary roads.

The University is in discussion with Coventry City Council about running the route through the University and has identified a route through the Central Campus area.

The University is supportive of the Bus Rapid Transit scheme, given the sustainable transport benefits it would bring.