

Stafford Borough Council
Civic Centre
Riverside
Stafford ST16 3BR

Consultation About Leisure and Recreation Facilities in Stone

Stafford Borough Council invites you to public consultation events which will be held on:

Wednesday 27th February

Eccleshall Community Centre, Shaws Lane, Eccleshall, Staffordshire, ST21 6AU: Between 11.00am – 2.00pm

Barlaston Methodist Church, Park Drive, Barlaston, ST12 9DP: Between 4.30pm – 7.30pm

Thursday 28th February

Christ Church Centre, Christ Church, Christ Church Way, Stone, ST15 8ZB: Between 4.00pm – 8.00pm

Saturday 2nd March

Alleyne's High School, Oulton Road, Stone, ST15 8DT: Between 10.30am – 2.30pm

Aims and Objectives

- Improve open space and event area provision at Westbridge Park
- Reduce taxpayer's contributions to operating costs by bringing leisure facilities in Stone into the same location
- Retain the scout hut and canoe club and improve guide provision
- Deliver a new Leisure Centre with better equipped gym and new pool
- Provide toddler, junior and teenage play facilities at Westbridge Park

Contact Details:

T: 08448 425270

e: westbridgepark@staffordbc.gov.uk

w: www.staffordbc.gov.uk/westbridgepark



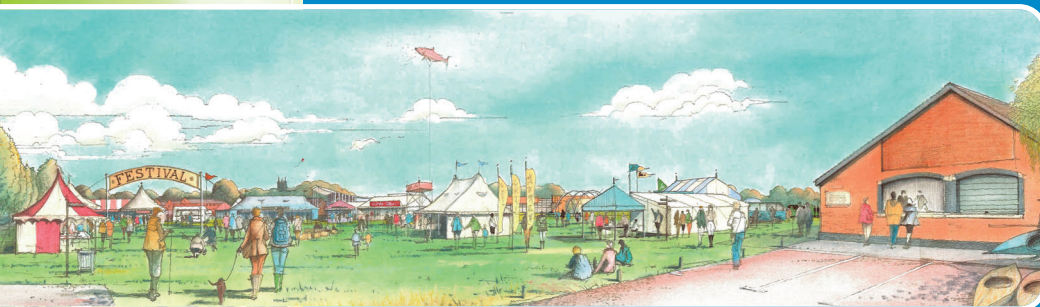
Leisure Facilities In Stone

Stone's leisure facilities are nearing the end of their lifespan and investment is required. They currently cost the council a lot to run and repair, due to the age and inefficiency of the buildings and the fact that two separate sites need to be managed.

Stafford Borough Council (SBC) delivered a new, state-of-the-art leisure centre in Stafford which was developer funded through the sale of a council-owned site. A new leisure centre in Stone will also require the sale of council-owned land to help meet the costs.

The Borough Council is keen to assess public opinion and will not go ahead with the investment into a new leisure centre in Stone unless there is positive support from the community in the north of the borough. Any proposals would be subject to planning permission.

The Borough Council also recognises that Westbridge Park will continue to be the focus for community events, including the annual Stone Festival, the Food & Drink Festival and Bonfire Night.



Artist's impression showing how the event area can still be accommodated at Westbridge Park

Existing leisure and recreation facilities

Westbridge Park

Next to Stone Town Centre, the Leisure Centre provides a health and fitness facility and has 70,000 visitors a year. There are also football pitches, tennis courts, scout and guide huts, a canoe club, a teenage sports park, play areas and open space for events and recreation.

The current leisure centre was constructed in 1989 with a life expectancy of 12 years. It has been internally refurbished, but structurally the building has exceeded its design life.

Other Facilities

A swimming pool, sports hall, squash and tennis courts and sports pitches are available for public use out-of-school-hours at Alleyne's School in Stone. Alleyne's School is applying for Academy status and discussions are underway on the continued public use of the sports facilities. The Borough Council also provides tennis courts and bowling at Stonefield Park and football at Tilling Drive.



Proposed leisure facilities at Westbridge Park

It is proposed that new state-of-the-art facilities will provide the following:

- A 6-lane, 25m swimming pool
- Fitness gym to accommodate up to 80 pieces of cardio vascular and resistance equipment
- 3 multi-purpose rooms/aerobic studios and a consultation/training room
- Improved changing accommodation
- A new children's play area and teenage facilities

Funding new facilities

The council will put in a substantial sum, based on achieving the savings in running costs of bringing the leisure facilities together. But developer contributions from the sale of council-owned land are essential to meet the costs.

Why is a new food store required in Stone?

There are a number of food operators interested in Stone and there is proven capacity for a new food store. Putting this on part of Westbridge Park means it is:

- Only 200m (within walking distance) of the High Street and would provide parking and encourage visitors into town
- Council-owned, therefore every penny of the money a food operator would pay for the site would be reinvested in Stone
- Able to help fund a new leisure centre and improvements to the event area at Westbridge Park

If there is no public support for a food store in this location it is likely a food store will go elsewhere in Stone, but this will not deliver the funds needed for a new leisure facility.

As part of this consultation, The Borough Council is asking if local residents would be prepared to see a new food store in a town centre, council-owned site, if it helps fund new leisure facilities and improvements to Westbridge Park.



Artist's impression looking into the proposed Westbridge Park

What the park could look like



Frequently Asked Questions

Q) Is housing proposed for Westbridge Park?

A) No, housing is not included.

Q) Why is another supermarket required?

A) An independent report, commissioned by the Borough Council, has shown that there is capacity for further food and general shopping space.

Q) Can the supermarket go elsewhere?

A) Yes, but Government policy is for shops to be as close to the town centre as possible to protect the High Street. There is interest from a supermarket operator for a site and store off the A51 at Aston and another for a site next to the Fire Station. This would not deliver the developer contributions that are required to build a leisure centre.

Q) Is there a proposal for a doctor's surgery on Westbridge Park?

A) Initially the plan was for the two existing doctor's surgeries to come together on Westbridge Park. We still think this would be a good location for a doctor's surgery, but the only way this could be provided would be at the expense of green space.

Q) If the food store and leisure centre are developed at Westbridge Park, what will happen to the Food & Drink Festival and the Stone Festival, scouts, guides and canoe club?

A) We have ensured that a substantial green area is retained for these important events and Westbridge Park and would be happy to consider gifting the event area to Stone Town Council. The scouts and canoe clubs will remain where they are but we would provide replacement facilities for the guides.

Q) What effect will the flood plain have?

A) Parts of the park are in the flood plain, but there is sufficient land outside the flood plain to allow the proposals to go ahead. We have already discussed the proposals with the Environment Agency.

Q) When would the leisure centre and food store be delivered if this were to go ahead?

A) The replacement leisure centre would come first in 2015 and the food store would follow.

Questionnaire

Please complete the questionnaire, detach from this leaflet and post using the freepost address overleaf. Alternatively email westbridgepark@staffordbc.gov.uk or visit www.staffordbc.gov.uk/westbridgepark to complete an online form.

Name / Address

Email

Q1) Westbridge Park will retain a green and open space. What would you like that to include?

Tick your preferred options

- Event space (e.g festivals)
- Football pitch
- Circular, landscaped walk including the riverside path
- Picnic area
- Play areas
- Other ideas

Q2) By accommodating a food store at Westbridge Park, which would be smaller than Morrisons, this will provide the funds needed to deliver a new leisure centre with a 25m pool, fitness centre and aerobics studios as well as retaining the open space and event area, scouts, guides and the canoe club at the park. Do you support this proposal?

YES NO UNSURE

If you have comments/questions insert here. Use additional paper if required. Feedback will be circulated to respondents who provide contact details.

Thank you



←..... Detach here, fold, staple / stick and return to the freepost address provided