

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK – CAMPUS EXPANSION

A GUIDE TO THE PLANNING APPLICATION

The University of Warwick has submitted an outline planning application to the local authorities of Coventry City and Warwick District in whose areas the main campus is situated, either side of Gibbet Hill Road.

The application is for 171,000 sq m of development over the next 10 years. This will take up various sites which are still available within the Coventry campus and significant expansion in areas previously identified for development on the Warwickshire campus in the University's 1994 Development Plan.

The University needs to expand for a variety of reasons but principal among these is its desire to become a world leading university by 2015, its 50th anniversary. This requires substantial growth in research activity, taking its campus population to 20,000 students, the number envisaged in 1965.

The local authorities have participated in a Campus Development Steering Group over the last 2 years to share views and build consensus on the emerging proposals. There has been a particular focus on transport and design.

There have also been 3 rounds of public consultation, from the launch in November 2005, to a series of stakeholder meetings and presentations in the first half of 2006 and public exhibitions at Cannon Park, Canley and Kenilworth in the summer of 2006.

The application is the culmination of four years work by the University and its consultant team.

The application comprises:

- **Justification for Expansion** by the University of Warwick – which explains the University's vision and why it needs to expand over the next 10 years
- **Planning Statement** by Turley Associates – which identifies the key planning considerations and sets out the "very special circumstances" which justify development in the Green Belt
- **Main Campus Masterplan 1** by MacCormac Jamieson Prichard Architects – which sets out the development proposals and the various strategies for design and access
- **Transport Assessment and Travel Plan** by Arup – which considers the impact of growth on travel patterns and sets out the University's sustainable transport strategy and Travel Plan
- **Environmental Statement** (Vols 1-4) co-ordinated by Arup – which includes a Non-Technical Summary (Vol 1) and detailed technical assessments (Vols 2-4) of the potential

environmental effects of the University's expansion

- **Flood Risk Assessment** by Arup – which is a planning requirement to provide an assessment of the risks of flooding arising from the proposed development
- **Statement of Community Engagement** by the University of Warwick and Turley Associates – which describes the efforts of the University over the last 2 years to consult with a wide range of stakeholders to inform the development of its proposals

There will be a statutory consultation period after the application is submitted starting in early July 2007 and running for at least three weeks. The University will publicise this by distributing a special issue of its 'CommUnity' newsletter to local residents, councillors and other members of the local community. The application documents will be available to view at University House, on the University's website, and at the Council offices in Coventry and Leamington. The application will also be available free on 2 CDs as a series of pdf files.

The application will be considered by both local planning authorities with two decisions taken but a single set of conditions and Section 106 Agreement, should planning permission be granted.

As a "departure" from the development plan (by virtue of the Green Belt status of the Warwickshire Land), the application will be referred to the Government Office West Midlands to decide whether or not the Secretary of State wishes to "call-in" the proposals for her consideration. This would involve a public inquiry.

The University hopes to have a positive outcome by the end of 2007.