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27<sup>th</sup> February 2006

Ref. KS/LDF/3

My Ref. GOWM/WPT/P5357LDF/54887

Dear Ms. Swanson.

**Re: Bridgnorth District Statement of Community Involvement,  
Draft for Consultation, January 2006.**

I refer to your letter dated January 2006 concerning the above. Thank you for giving the Government Office the opportunity to comment on your draft Statement of Community Involvement.

On the whole the draft document provides a good basis on which to proceed to a Submission document. However, there are a number of areas where additional information is required. These are listed on the attached sheet. In particular, I would point out the need to include a brief, general profile of the Bridgnorth area to help to reflect local circumstances. Secondly, there is a need to identify, based on sound evidence, the hard to reach groups in the District and set out the specific methods which will be used to engage them. Thirdly, there is a need to set out how the SCI will be monitored and reviewed.

I have also attached a number of detailed comments relating to specific paragraphs which I hope you will find self-explanatory.

Planning for leisure and cultural activities is an important element of the Local Development Planning process. Arts festivals, urban renewal programmes, sporting/cultural venues, tourist attractions, craft sector activity and archaeological and built heritage sites, for example, make an area more interesting and can attract tourists, relocating companies and further investment. They also contribute to the quality of life for local residents, thereby giving a boost to community identity and civic pride. Cultural policy for these sectors, together with regional and local strategies are set out in a number of documents produced by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and its Non-Departmental Bodies.

The inclusion of reference to these strategies in a section on the characteristics of the District would be welcomed .In addition to those bodies you have identified in the draft document, I would encourage you to consult the following and consequently include them in the SCI; Museums, Libraries and Achieves West Midlands, Culture West Midlands, Arts Council West Midlands and Midlands Architecture and the Designed Environment.

On the question of consultations on the draft document itself, I note you have consulted the parish councils in adjoining Districts and that they are listed in the draft. This is a requirement which has been missed by a number of authorities.

I hope these comments are helpful but should you wish to any of the matters raised please contact me.

Yours sincerely

**MIKE PRICE**

**Senior Planning Officer  
Western Division (Planning and Transport)**