

## **I'm excited for our future...but are you?**

You will have heard or read about the huge investments that are on their way to the borough - £70 million for two retail developments.

In what are still difficult financial times this is a tremendous boost for the prosperity of the area and now we are looking for your help and your views. Because you cannot plan for major development bringing hundreds of more jobs without having the homes and the facilities to accommodate it.

So in September we will launch a consultation on our local plans and this is the time for people who work, live, visit in the borough to tell us what you think of them. What you like or what you would change. How you think it can be done better or why you wouldn't do it that way.

The main thrust of the local plans are that three new 'urban villages' are going to be built. These will be new communities and not just great big housing developments that have been delivered in the past.

Around 5,500 homes will be built across the three 'villages,' but that's not the end of the story. They will need the right transport and facilities – such as schools, medical centres, and open spaces.

There are also proposals for six new employment sites across the borough.

There's no housing sites allocated in the rural areas.

And there is no expansion of Stone for at least ten years – it has had quite enough development in recent times.

I am only giving you the briefest of facts in what is a substantial document and you will get the chance to see the final proposals soon. Planning experts will also be holding road shows in the key areas so you can ask questions and give your views at them.

Now I've had my say - don't miss the chance to have yours

- On a personal note it was very sad to have lost a friend and colleague in Councillor Mike Carey who passed away last month. Mike was a tremendous fighter for his ward and the people of Stone and will be sorely missed.