

Shropshire Partnership
Shirehall
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Shropshire Environmental Alliance
c/o David Currant
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Copies of critique to:
Councillor Keith Barrow,
Kim Ryley, Chief Executive
Sheila Healy, Interim Chief Executive
Members of the Cabinet
Council Sustainability Team

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28.9.09

Dear Sirs,

**Response to Draft Shropshire Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-2020
from Shropshire Environmental Alliance**

This is a combined response from independent environmental groups across the county; supporters of the Alliance are listed at the bottom of this letter. The Environmental Alliance was formed to demonstrate a united voice for radical change in the strategy document and the whole process by which the Council determine central strategy in order to meet the unprecedented challenges presented by climate change, finite resources, food security, loss of biodiversity and other environmental degradation.

The current draft of the Sustainable Community Strategy fails even to recognise some of these challenges or to give adequate precedence to those it does. The Alliance believes it is of the utmost urgency for the Council to:

- ✓ Show clear and decisive leadership by:
 - recognising and addressing these major challenges and
 - making it clear to everyone that is what it is doing.
- ✓ Foster transformational change within Shropshire's many communities.
- ✓ Promote ongoing dialogue with the 'community of the environment' within Shropshire to exploit their skills and specialist knowledge.

Most worrying amongst these omissions is the marginalisation of climate change and food security for which there is now an accepted and substantial global evidence base. Were they to be fully acknowledged, as of course they should be, not only the content of the strategy would need to be different but the whole structure of the document and the way in which the content is to be developed in a meaningful way would also need radical rethinking.

We believe there is still time to do this and do it properly even in the short window of opportunity that is left before the end of December. Supporters of the Alliance are ready and willing to assist with this process should the Council wish to benefit from these local resources to get the job done. Given the major changes and restructuring that the Alliance and others deem necessary we also urge you to consider a further round of consultation on the full strategy document before it is finalised.

Our response is in two parts: a [4 page critique](#) containing our comments and proposals and further input on the [standard response form](#). Copies of both are attached.

Yours sincerely,

David Carrant on behalf of the Shropshire Environmental Alliance

Shropshire Environmental Alliance is supported by: Bridgnorth and District Furniture Scheme, Cleobury Country Environmental Forum, Ecumenical Green Group, Ellesmere Goes Green, Ludlow 21, Rea Valley Environmental Group, Shrewsbury Friends of the Earth, Stretton Climate Care, Transition Town Wem and with contributions from Marches Energy Agency.