Test 3

Section 2

Man: First of all, let me thank you all for coming to this public meeting, to discuss the future of our town. Our first speaker is Shona Ferguson, from Barford town council. Shona.

Shona: Thank you. First (1) ……, then 'll be asking you for your comments on developments in the town.

Well, as you don't need me to tell you, Barford has changed a great deal in the last 50 years. These are some of the main changes.

Fifty years ago, buses linked (2) ……and villages. Most people used them frequently, but not now, because the bus companies concentrate on just the routes that attract most passengers. So parts of the town are no longer served by buses. Even (3) …… has had little impact on passenger numbers. It's sometimes said that bus fares are too high, but (4) ……

higher than they were 50 years ago.

Changes in the road network are affecting the town. The centre was recently closed to traffic on a trial basis, making it much safer for pedestrians. The impact of this is being measured. (5) ……in most main roads, are being used far more than was expected reducing traffic and improving air quality. And although (6) ……

have failed, we haven't given up hope of persuading the government to change its mind.

Shopping in the town centre has changed over the years. Many of us can remember when (7) …… Numbers have been falling for several years, despite efforts to attract shoppers, for instance by opening new car parks. Some people combine shopping with visits to the town's restaurants and cafés. Most shops are small independent stores, which is good, but many people (8) ……in nearby large towns, as there are so few well-known chain stores here.

Turning now to medical facilities, the town is served by family doctors in several medical practices- fewer than 50 years ago, (9) ……

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hospital closed 15 years ago, which means journeys to other towns are unavoidable. On the other hand, there are more dentists than there used to be.

Employment patterns have changed, along with almost everything else. The number of schools and colleges has increased, making that the main employment sector. Services, such as (10) ……..……..……and surprisingly, perhaps, manufacturing hasn't seen the decline that has affected it in other parts of the country.

Now I'll very quickly outline current plans for some of the town's facilities, before asking for your comments.

As you'll know if you regularly use the car park at the railway station, it's usually full. The railway company applied for (11) ……..……., but that was refused. Instead, the company has bought some adjoining land, and this will be used to increase the number of parking spaces.

The Grand, the old cinema in the high street, will close at the end of the year, and reopen on a different site. You've (12) ……..……. The plan is to have three screens with fewer seats rather than just the one large auditorium in the old cinema.

I expect many of you shop in the indoor market. It's become more and more shabby-looking, and because of (13) ……..……. The good news is that it will close for six weeks to be made safe and redecorated, and the improved building will open in July.

Lots of people use the library, including school and college students who go there to study. The council has managed to secure funding to keep the library open later into the evening, twice a week. We would like to (14) ……..…….……but this is by no means definite.

There's no limit on access to the nature reserve on the edge of town, and this will continue to be the case. What will change though, is that the council will (15)…….. Instead it will become the (16) ……..……. in the country.

OK, now let me ask you ...

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