

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE SHIFNAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

RESIDENTS SAY 'NO THANKS' TO MORE HOUSES IN SHIFNAL

Following a questionnaire that was delivered to every address in Shifnal in November, residents have responded to say what their views and priorities are for the future of the town over the next 10-15 years.

Robert Harrop Mayor of Shifnal said that ...

‘He was delighted to see that residents said that they were proud of their town. He noted that there was a clear message from both existing and new residents, who said that they want to retain the vibrant small market town character of Shifnal, whilst also improving the facilities and infrastructure to meet the challenges of an increasing population from all the new housing schemes that have been given planning permission to date in and around Shifnal`.

Residents have said that any remaining land for housing should be for local needs only, including those of the young and the elderly and that the design and scale of the any new housing should be in keeping with the character of the town. Residents said that they thought it was important that the existing green belt around the town was protected.

Congestion on the roads was raised as a significant concern along with the need to make roads safer for pedestrians. They also want to see pedestrian and cycle paths improved, better medical facilities provided, parks and open spaces protected both in and around the town.

Young people were also asked for their views and wanted to see better equipment, facilities, BMX/Skateboard track and a shelter in the park and a nature area. Also places for them to meet in the town and they liked the events that were held in the town centre.

The full results from all of the consultation; the Drop-In days, the Farmers Market stall, the Residents Questionnaire and Young People Consultations are available on the new Shifnal Neighbourhood Plan website www.shifnalplan.co.uk

Chris Raine, a volunteer from the local community and the Chair of the Shifnal Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group which has been set up by the Town Council, says,

“Thanks to everyone who returned the questionnaire or came to one of the drop-in days. We had a really great response from the people of Shifnal and it is clear that local residents and businesses have very definite views on the future of their town. We are now working on draft policies for the Neighbourhood Plan that reflect these views”.

Shifnal residents will have another chance to say what they think when these draft policies are ready in a few months' time.

This is the first time the local community have been able to develop a plan for their own area that, once approved, will have to be taken into account when future planning decisions are taken.

For more information on this Press Release you can contact Chris Raine on 01952 461535. Please note this phone number is not for publication in the paper.