

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE SHIFNAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP.

WHAT'S YOUR VISION FOR THE SHIFNAL OF 2026? COME AND HAVE YOUR SAY

Shifnal has started the process of preparing a new community-led plan for the town.

The newly established Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group want the people of Shifnal to 'Have Your Say'.

The Chair of the Steering Group, Chris Raine says that she does understand that people in Shifnal may well say.... 'Isn't it a bit late?'. After all, so many planning applications for large-scale housing development have been approved in Shifnal lately, and we know that these have caused a lot of concern.

The message from the Steering Group is that 'nobody can change the recent planning applications for housing, but residents and businesses in Shifnal can have a say now on what they see as the main issues for the town over the next 10-15 years and what they want to see improved for the future. The Neighbourhood Plan will be part of the legal planning framework.

This is the first time the local community have been able to develop a plan for their own area that will have to be taken into account when future planning decisions are taken. It will need to set out the community's vision for the town and it will help shape the future development and character of the town and adjacent rural areas for the next 10 years and beyond.'

Robert Harrop, Mayor of Shifnal and member of the Steering Group said 'The people of Shifnal will be able to say what goes into the plan and then they get to vote on it in a Referendum'.

He also pointed out that a real bonus of having this plan is 'that it will enable Shifnal to receive more money from Shropshire Council to spend in the community'.

The Plan will be need to consider a range of issues affecting the town including housing, employment, shops, transport, environment and open space, leisure activities.

The Steering Group will be asking residents to say what they think about these issues in a Questionnaire that will be delivered to all households in week beginning 23rd November for return by 7th December.

There will also be Drop-in Days on Saturday 22nd and Saturday 29th November 10.00am to 4.00pm at the Old Fire Station in Shrewsbury Road. So come along and find out more about the Neighbourhood Plan and put forward your ideas and views about the future of the town over the next 10-15 years.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has been set up by the Shifnal Town Council to lead the process of preparing the Plan. The Town Council have been awarded a grant of £7000 by the Department for Communities and Local government to support the cost of preparing the plan. The Steering Group comprises 3 local people who have volunteered their time to support the preparation of the Plan, as well as the Shifnal Town Mayor, Robert Harrop and Deputy Mayor, Andy Mitchell.

You can meet them at the Drop-In Days on 22nd and 29th November at the Old Fire Station when they will be able to answer your questions and listen to your views. So come and tell us what your Vision is for the Shifnal of 2026?

As well as seeking views from local people and businesses we are also looking for volunteers to help in the process of consulting the local community. We want to hear from as many different groups as possible.

You can contact the Steering Group to make comments or to volunteer by email at shifnalplan@hotmail.com

Note for Editors

Neighbourhood Plans are a new type of planning document which give local people a much greater say in the future of their communities. It is the first time that a local Parish or Town Council has had the opportunity to develop a plan that will ultimately become a statutory document that has to be taken into account when planning decisions are being considered.

The Plan has to conform to National Planning Policies and Shropshire Council's Core Strategy Planning Policies.

Once prepared the Plan will be subject to an independent examination and then put to a referendum of the local community.