

## **Shifnal Neighbourhood Plan**

Now that the Plan has been overwhelmingly approved by the community in the referendum, Shropshire Council, as the local planning authority, will bring it into force as part of the statutory development plan for our area against which future planning applications are determined. This will happen at the 15<sup>th</sup> December Shropshire Council meeting.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has completed its brief. However, having a Plan in place is just part of the process – just as important is seeing those ambitions for the future of Shifnal materialise as real changes on the ground. This will be the job of Shropshire Council, Shifnal Town Council, the other organisations involved in the delivery of services and infrastructure and ,of course, the wider Shifnal community itself.

At the same time planning doesn't stand still. Shropshire Council are now reviewing their Core Strategy and SAMDev by moving the Local Plan on another 10 years to 2036. This will particularly involve housing requirements and site allocations including a review of the Green Belt boundaries around Shifnal Town.

There is a Neighbourhood Planning Bill currently going through Parliament. This will make it easier to modify neighbourhood plans without going through the full process leading to a referendum. It is of interest that Shropshire Council officers have indicated that the Shifnal Neighbourhood Plan review process may have a role to play in the local plan review.

It is clear that much work required to be done in the very near future to ensure that the Shifnal voice is heard when any new proposals emerge particularly in relation to the Shropshire Local Plan Review.

We would like to finish this series of articles (this is the 21<sup>st</sup>!) by thanking everyone who contributed to the development of the Plan (and voted for it!) The Plan was based on extensive consultation and discussion with residents, young people, businesses and local organisations in Shifnal. Its final shape was determined by what you told us mattered to you for the future of the town.

Chris Raine (Chair) & Tim Day (member) – Shifnal Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group