

Progress Report on the Shifnal Neighbourhood Plan

Overwhelming Support for the plan in Shifnal's very own Referendum

On Thursday 15th September Shifnal residents were asked to vote `YES` or `NO` to the following question:

Do you want Shropshire Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Shifnal to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?

1660 votes were cast which was 30.59% of the eligible voters. Of those who voted, 1545 voted Yes, 112 voted No and there were 3 rejected ballot papers. The Yes vote was 93% of those who voted. This was a huge vote of support for the Plan and Shifnal residents saying very clearly"We want our voices to be heard on any future plans for our town"

The Next Stage

Now that the Plan has been approved by the community in the referendum then 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.

Shropshire Council will formally adopt the Plan at its Council meeting in December but between now and then significant weight will be attached to the Plan in determining relevant planning applications in Shifnal.

Thank You

Thank you to 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.

Where can I see the Shifnal Neighbourhood Plan?

The Neighbourhood Plan and all the supporting documents and background information and evidence can be seen on the website www.shifnalplan.co.uk. A copy of the plan is also available in the Library and from the Town Council Office on non-library days.

The Shifnal Town Council are the custodians of the Neighbourhood Plan on your behalf

Shifnal Town Council, who is consulted by Shropshire on planning applications, will be making their recommendations in the context of the approved policies in the Neighbourhood Plan. The Steering Group have provided members of the Town Council with an easy reference checklist on the Neighbourhood Plan policies to use when they are considering planning applications at their monthly meetings.

Planning Doesn't Stand Still!

Shropshire Council is now undertaking a partial review of their overall Local Plan and this may have implications for Shifnal, so this will need to be monitored by the Town Council. At the

same time the Government have published draft legislation which makes it easier to review and amend approved neighbourhood plans. More on these issues in future articles.

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