

Progress Report on the Shifnal Neighbourhood Plan

Shifnal's very own Referendum will be held on Thursday 15th September 2016.

Why is there a Referendum?

The regulations governing the process that must be followed for the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan state that a community referendum must be held. The referendum will follow similar lines to local elections but it is about the community deciding its own future for their local town and surrounding area.

You will be 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?

The Plan is based on consultation and discussion with residents, young people, businesses and local organisations in Shifnal.

Why do I need to vote?

If over 50% of those who vote support the Plan then it will be adopted by Shropshire Council who must then use its policies when considering planning applications for any proposed development or change of use to any land or buildings in the Shifnal Parish.

Once adopted the Neighbourhood Plan has legal status. In other parts of the country they have been used successfully to refuse proposed developments and encourage the type of development that local people want. Here in Shifnal for example people told us they wanted a new medical centre.

How do I take part in the Referendum?

You will receive a polling card from the Shropshire Council Elections Officer through the post which will tell you where to go to vote on Thursday 15th September.

OR you will be able to use your postal vote if you normally have one for elections and Referendums.

Polling stations will be at:

- *Shifnal Seniors Social Club, Curriers Lane*
- *Shifnal Town FC Social Club, Newport Road*
- *Shifnal Village Hall, Aston Street*

Your polling card will tell you which one you should go to.

You will receive a copy of a Summary of the Plan.

A summary of the policies and the issues included in the Plan has been prepared by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group on behalf of the Town Council. In the week beginning 29th August 2016 the summary booklet will be delivered to every household in the

Neighbourhood Plan area, which is the Shifnal Parish. Copies of the summary will also be available at the Library and it will be on the website.

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 will also be available in the Library. If you have any questions you can contact Shifnal Council at their offices in the Library Building on Broadway or email the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group via the contact form on the website.

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