

## **Progress Report on the Shifnal Neighbourhood Plan**

### **HOW WILL THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN BE USED? – PART 2**

Recent articles have talked a lot about the process that the Neighbourhood Plan is going through on its way to being formally adopted as the legal Neighbourhood Plan for the Shifnal Parish (the area covered by the Town Council). Shropshire Council Planning Officers have signed off the Referendum version of the Plan which includes all the modifications recommended by the Independent Examiner.

The Plan now has the status of an `Emerging Plan` and can proceed to the final stage that is required - a referendum of local people. This is likely to be held in the autumn. The plan is available to see on the NP website. Once we have a date for the Plan referendum we will publicise it on the website [www.shifnalplan.co.uk](http://www.shifnalplan.co.uk) and elsewhere.

In last month`s article we outlined how the plan will be used to manage or control the use and development of land within the Shifnal Parish, which is the designated area for the Neighbourhood Plan. The other role of the Plan is to `champion` the developments required to improve the infrastructure in Shifnal Town to meet the needs of a significantly larger population in the town over the Plan period, which is up to 2026.

The two most frequently raised issues in the consultations during the development of the plan were the pressing need for a new medical centre and concerns about the volume and speed of traffic and the increasing congestion at key junctions within the town. Both of these issues along with others are addressed in the plan.

A site for a new medical centre has been allocated at the corner of Haughton Road/Newport Road. This site was included in the outline planning application for 400 houses to be built at Haughton Road. Allocating the site in the Neighbourhood Plan secures the site for development for the new medical centre. However funding to build the new medical centre is still required and is being sought by our Medical Practice in a bid to NHS England. A decision on whether the scheme has sufficient priority to be considered for funding will be made at the end of August. We will probably not know the final outcome until later in the year – the Shifnal scheme is competing for finance against many other schemes.

An exhibition of the proposals for the Transport and Movement strategy for Shifnal was held at the Village Hall in December 2015. The proposals were developed by Shropshire Council Highways in consultation with community volunteers from the Shifnal Forward Transport Action Group and members of the Town Council. Copies of the Exhibition boards can be seen in the Background and Evidence section of the Plan website (final bullet point) at [www.shifnalplan.co.uk](http://www.shifnalplan.co.uk) if you missed them at the time. The proposals include a plan for improvements to main shopping street and the junction with Aston Street/Victoria Road/ Bradford Street. Funding for this scheme is being sought from Shropshire Council.

The proposals also included a plan to develop 5 Walkway routes into the town centre, to key facilities and the 3 schools. Parking in the town centre is limited and traffic congestion around the school gates causes problems so providing safe walking routes is one way of reducing car use in the town and encouraging a healthier lifestyle. Improvements to the station are also called for and more train services are being negotiated. A project group is being formed to work with Shropshire Council on the details of the implementation of the Walkway Routes and if you are interested in joining this group please contact the Town clerk at the Library or email [info@shifnaltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:info@shifnaltowncouncil.gov.uk).

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