

Progress Report on the Shifnal Neighbourhood Plan

THE PLAN HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

During March the Independent Examiner reviewed the Plan. The good news is that he has approved it. What the Examiner has said is that the Plan has met the basic conditions for neighbourhood plans set out in legislation and recommended that it can move on to the referendum stage subject to a limited number of relatively minor modifications. You can read the Examiner's report on our website.

All of us involved in developing the Plan were very pleased to read that he congratulated the Town Council and its volunteers for all the hard work that has clearly gone into the drafting of the plan. It certainly has been hard but worthwhile work! At the same time it is clear that the input from residents during the various consultations over the last 18 months has been very important in achieving the successful progress of the Plan to this stage.

There are still some administrative and legal processes to go through but once the modifications have been incorporated into the Plan by Shropshire Council in consultation with the Town Council, it will be ready to proceed to the referendum. You will be able to read the final version of the Plan on the website or at the Library / Council offices. A summary of the final Plan is going to be delivered to every household in the time leading up to the referendum which we hope will be held in the summer.

If more than 50% of those voting in the referendum vote `yes` in support of the Neighbourhood Plan then the local planning authority (Shropshire Council) will bring it into force as part of the statutory development plan for our area against which future planning applications are determined.

The Plan is now considered as an emerging neighbourhood plan and will be taken into account in determining planning applications in the time up to its final adoption.

Because of publishing deadlines for this magazine there may be more information available by the time you read this article – please check www.shifnalplan.co.uk for the latest news.

Chris Raine (Chair) and Tim Day (member) of the Shifnal Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group