

Developing the Shifnal Neighbourhood Plan

THE PLAN HAS BEEN SUBMITTED – HERE IS WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Shifnal Town Council signed off the Neighbourhood Plan at their December 2015 meeting and has submitted it to Shropshire Council. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group developed the Plan over the last fifteen months, based on what the community told them mattered. The Plan and the required supporting documents are as follows:

- The Shifnal Neighbourhood Plan 2014-2026 Submission Stage Consultation (the plan itself)
- The Consultation Statement (details of the consultation process)
- The Basic Conditions Statement (shows the Plan conforms with national planning policy)

These three documents can be viewed on the website www.shifnalplan.co.uk and at the Town Council offices and the Library.

On receiving the Plan, Shropshire Council is responsible for checking that the submitted Neighbourhood Plan has followed the proper legal process as set out in the regulations. Shropshire Council is then required to publicise the proposed plan for a period of 6 weeks and invite anyone interested to comment.

Following this they will arrange for an independent examination of the plan. The Independent Examiner will only consider whether the proposed Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions set out by law - they are not permitted to explore other considerations. The Examiner will then issue a report to Shropshire Council and Shifnal Town Council. If the plan meets the basic conditions the Examiner will recommend that the plan proceed to the referendum stage, or may suggest further modifications to the plan. Once it meets the basic conditions, it can proceed to referendum.

Shropshire Council will arrange for the referendum to take place. People on the electoral register in the designated area, the Parish of Shifnal will be entitled to vote in the referendum. 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.

Our Neighbourhood Plan then forms part of the statutory Development Plan for our area. Decisions on whether or not to grant planning permission in Shifnal will then need to be made in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to developing the Plan over the last year and ensuring that it reflects the views of the people of Shifnal. Best wishes for 2016.

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