

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

### **THE PLAN IS NOW BEING INDEPENDENTLY EXAMINED**

Shropshire Council has now appointed an Independent Examiner to carry out the examination of the Shifnal Neighbourhood Plan. He will start this work in March. Many such examinations are conducted by written representations but if he considers it necessary he may invite interested parties to a public hearing to present their comments. If this happens the arrangements for the hearing will be well publicised.

The Plan and the required supporting documents have been sent to the Examiner together with a copy of any comments received during the Shropshire Council 6-week consultation period which closed on 26<sup>th</sup> February. The three key documents are:

- 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)

They can be viewed on the website [www.shifnalplan.co.uk](http://www.shifnalplan.co.uk).

The Examiner will only consider whether the proposed Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions set out by law – he is 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 he may suggest further modifications to the plan before the referendum can take place.

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 and the voting arrangements will be similar to those for a local election. We are not sure when the referendum will take place. There may be another referendum that could affect our timetable!

There will be a lot of publicity to alert residents to its date both locally with information from the Town Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and from Shropshire Council as the elections authority.

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.

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