

## **Developing the Shifnal Neighbourhood Plan**

### **ONE YEAR ON!**

It is now over a year since work started on developing the Neighbourhood Plan for Shifnal. The Residents' Questionnaire was sent to all households in November and December last year. Since then we've had lots of meetings - with residents, with businesses and community groups and with school pupils and students. We've also met many residents through our market stalls and held a very well attended exhibition in June. There have been two update leaflets delivered to all homes and businesses.

The comments made on the draft policies and plans have informed the first formal edition of the Plan called the Pre-Submission Consultation. We have been consulting statutory bodies and local organisations as well as individual members of the community on this first full version of the Plan and the consultation period ended on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Lots of residents and many local and statutory organisations have responded very positively to the policies set out in the Plan.

Main issues raised in the comments are

- sorting out the increasing traffic problems and parking including dealing with safety issues for pedestrians and cyclists
- the urgent need for the new medical centre
- retaining the green belt surrounding the town to avoid Shifnal moving closer to Telford and to preserve its market town character
- keeping the open spaces within the town
- dealing with the problems of empty town centre buildings

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is now looking at all the comments to see whether the Plan needs revising before it is signed off by Shifnal Town Council and submitted to Shropshire Council who carry out the next stage of the process. More on this in our next article.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to developing the Plan over the last year. Best wishes for a Happy Christmas.

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