

Developing the Shifnal Neighbourhood Plan

A PROGRESS REPORT

We have been asked to outline the next stages in the development of the Neighbourhood Plan and this article explains what is going to happen over the next few months.

The website is now up and running at www.shifnalplan.co.uk and contains lots of useful information. It includes the report of the Analysis of the First Stage of Engagement October to December 2014. This deals with the results of the Residents Questionnaire and the various consultation events that were held in the town. It is a long and formal title but this is the first part of quite a complex process that has to follow government guidelines. The report is available on the website and there is also a copy at the library and the town council offices.

What next? The Steering Group set up by the Town Council is currently writing the draft Neighbourhood Plan. This will potentially include policies on

- Transport and movement
- Economy
- Health ,Education and Leisure
- Environment
- Housing
- Green Belt
- Character and Conservation

The Shifnal Forward Action Groups are contributing to this process by considering the proposed policies and helping to provide evidence to support them. Once the draft is completed it will be published and subject to consultation by residents, businesses and other interested parties. There will then be a formal six week consultation period – this is called the Pre-Submission Consultation. There will be lots of publicity on how the consultation will take place. The draft plan will be on the website and printed copies will also be made available. The Steering Group are keen to receive as many responses as possible from the whole community.

After this consultation and any necessary revision the Plan will be submitted to the planning authority, Shropshire Council, who will then undertake the next formal stages of the process. These will include:

- a check that the Plan meets the legal requirements
- a further 6 week period for comments
- an examination by a qualified, independent inspector,
- if recommended by the inspector, progression to a local referendum of Shifnal electors

If the referendum shows local support (more than 50% of those voting being in favour) then the Neighbourhood Plan will proceed to adoption and then be an important part of the overall procedure for the determining of planning applications in Shifnal. Because the later stages of the Neighbourhood plan process are outside our local control, final adoption of the plan is likely to be in 2016.

Comments and ideas are always welcome at any time and we can be contacted via the website www.shifnalplan.co.uk.

email shifnalplan@hotmail.com or write to us via Shifnal Town Council at 43 Broadway, Shifnal, TF11 8BB.

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