

Developing the Shifnal Neighbourhood Plan

RESIDENTS SAY 'NO THANKS' TO MORE HOUSES IN SHIFNAL

Following a questionnaire that was delivered to every address in Shifnal in November and various drop- in events, residents have responded to say what their views and priorities are for the future of the town over the next 10-15 years.

There was a clear message from both existing and newer residents, who said, that they want to retain the vibrant small market town character of Shifnal, whilst also improving the facilities and infrastructure to meet the needs and challenges of an increasing population from all the new housing schemes that have been given planning permission in and around Shifnal.

Residents have said that any remaining land for housing should be for local needs only, including those of the young and the elderly and that the design and scale of any new housing should be in keeping with the character of the town. Residents said that they thought it was important that the existing green belt around the town was protected.

Congestion on the roads was raised as a significant concern along with the need to improve safety for pedestrians. They also want to see pedestrian and cycle paths improved, better medical facilities provided, parks and open spaces protected both in and around the town.

Young people were also asked for their views and wanted to see better equipment, facilities and a shelter in the park, a swimming pool, a well-surfaced BMX/Skateboard track and a nature area. Also, places for them to meet in the town and they liked the events that are held in the town centre.

Thanks to all who responded. The full results from all of the Consultations including the Drop-In days, the Farmers Market stall, the Residents Questionnaire and Young People Consultations are available on the new Shifnal Neighbourhood Plan website www.shifnalplan.co.uk

The Steering Group, which has been set up by the Town Council, is now working on draft policies for the Neighbourhood Plan that reflects these views. Contact them via the website or email: shifnalplan@hotmail.com

This is the first time the local community have been able to develop a plan for their own area that, once approved, will have to be taken into account when future planning decisions are taken.

Shifnal residents will have another chance to say what they think when these draft policies are ready in a few months' time. 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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