

# NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

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**Much Wenlock  
Neighbourhood  
Plan**

*Our plan –  
Our future*



# Why develop a Neighbourhood Plan?

NALC President Lord Lytton, says in the 2014 summer issue of LCR:

“I do believe that neighbourhood planning is a powerful tool that can be a great force for community engagement provided it does not turn into an excuse for NIMBY sentiments; because if every parish tries to keep development out, then some hard and inconvenient decisions may be taken that will override community views.”





# National Planning Policy Framework

”.....provides a framework within which local people and their accountable councils can produce their own distinctive local and neighbourhood plans, which reflect the needs and priorities of their communities”.





# Making a Neighbourhood Plan work for you

- Community engagement
- Consult with developers, landowners, schools and people of all ages
- CIL – the carrot





# First steps

- Media statement released
- Volunteers recruited
- Steering Group set up



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# Governance and accountability

- Neighbourhood Plan Committee
- Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group





# Plan of action

- Launch event
- Publicity campaign
- Road shows
- Website updated regularly





# Residents survey

- Design
- Content
- Production
- Analysis





# Objectives

1. Housing
2. The economy and jobs
3. Reducing flood risk
4. Traffic management and accessibility
5. Community well-being





# Objectives

- 6. Good quality design
- 7. Green and open spaces
- 8. The local landscape and wildlife
- 9. Sustainability and climate change





# Draft Plan

- Adopted by Town Council – April 2013
- Consultation on draft
- Draft Plan reviewed
- Examination
- Hearing





# After the Hearing

- Further questions from the Examiner
- Examiner's recommendations
- Plan modified
- Revised Plan approved January 2014
- Submitted for referendum





# Examiner's findings

- That the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to referendum on the basis that it meets all the necessary legal requirements; or
- **That the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to referendum as modified (based on my recommendations); or**
- That the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan does not proceed to referendum on the basis that it does not meet the relevant legal requirements.





# Referendum

“Do you want Shropshire Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Much Wenlock to help it decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area?”





# What does 'NO' mean?

“If the Neighbourhood Plan is rejected by the community it could lead to further consultation, hearing, additional modifications, and another referendum. Either this or potential planning in Much Wenlock will be dictated by the SAMDev, which again will lead to the loss of valued local engagement and ownership, both options of which will come at cost to the local taxpayer.”





# Referendum result

- 973 votes cast in total
- 823 voted 'YES'
- 130 voted 'NO'
- 20 ballot papers were rejected
- Turnout was 41.77%





# Lessons learnt

- Take care about limiting development
- Agree a target for development
- Do not let personal views get in the way
- Be guided by your principal authority





# Lessons learnt

- Don't be over ambitious
- Be guided by the facts not individual preferences
- Let the benefits give you strength to see it through to the bitter end!







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# QUESTIONS

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