

Woore Parish Neighbourhood Planning Team Report to the Annual Parish Meeting

5th April 2019

Background of Neighbourhood Plan:

As we have previously reported, Neighbourhood planning was introduced in 2012, this enables local communities to produce plans for their local areas putting in place vision and policies to guide future development of the area. The Woore Neighbourhood Plan will be a statutory planning policy document supported by a majority of the local population which will enable Woore Parish Council to have a greater and more positive influence on how the Parish develops in the future. Key points:

- Government directive
- Is a community led framework for guiding future development (i.e. not just Parish Council)
- Ultimately a planning document that will guide future development in the area
- Has to be in line with the Shropshire Local Plan
- In adherence with national planning policies

Re-cap of progress up to March 2018:

- Application made to have Woore Parish (Woore, Ireland's Cross, Pipe Gate, Dorrington, Gravenhunger, Bearstone and part of Onneley) the designated Neighbourhood Plan Area made by the Parish council – September 2015
- Application approved by Shropshire Council – Feb 2016
- Neighbourhood Planning team formed just over 24 months ago following publicity and open village meeting in Spring 2016 – combination of Parish Councillors and representatives from the local community
- Neighbourhood Plan committee agreed to produce a Plan that covers from the time it is adopted to 2036
- Distributed and analysed results from a short questionnaire, which had a response rate of 30%
- Developed a vision and objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan
- Delivered the “Big Questionnaire” to all residents and businesses in the Neighbourhood Plan area. This questionnaire was to gain feedback on the vision and objectives and other key areas that were proposed to be covered in the Plan. We had an overwhelming 54% response rate. So many thanks to all people who completed a questionnaire and everybody who helped deliver and collect;
- We held a drop in session on the 11th October 2017 to provide feedback to interested parties on the results from the Big Questionnaire and an opportunity to raise any other points.
- Following this we started drafting the actual Plan with special thanks to Stephen Clifford and Lucy Hughes our consultant from Cheshire Community Action Group for their key input into this drafting;
- After much hard work by all of the Neighbourhood Planning team, a draft Plan was approved by the Neighbourhood Plan committee and the Parish Council to be sent out for “Regulation 14” Consultation. This involved inviting residents and other potential interested parties to comment on the draft Plan. Within this 6 week period we also held another drop-in session for local residents to speak to the team first hand and raise any questions on the Plan.
- Majority of the feedback was supportive on the Plan produced. Some responses suggested amendments to the Plan. The Neighbourhood Planning team reviewed these suggestions and some alterations were made to the Plan where it was felt the suggestions aligned with the views of the Parish as evidenced through feedback in the questionnaires;

- The Plan was in April 2018 in a form to be submitted to Shropshire Council for their review to ensure it meets all appropriate regulations, and then Shropshire Council would publicise it for a further 6 week consultation and submit it for an independent examination.
- Timing from then on was entirely in the hands of Shropshire Council, however we hoped during the summer to be in a position to take the plan to a referendum.

Progress over the last 12 Months

- As forecast, the timing was in Shropshire Council's hands - this did cause some slippage on time as our work was limited to agreeing some amendments suggested by SC before its consultation exercise, then the appointment of the Examiner. At times we felt quite frustrated while we waited for more news.
- Further delay, until December, came from the Examiner asking the Council to carry out further work before he reported.
- The Report once issued required work by Shropshire to amend one recommendation to re-incorporate the development boundary, which both we and they felt to be crucial. We are grateful for that contribution and its incorporation also in the draft Local Plan review.
- The Report and revised Plan did then go to Shropshire's Cabinet in March, where it was approved to go to Referendum
- This Referendum is to allow the residents of the Parish to vote whether to formally adopt the Neighbourhood Plan.
- If the Referendum is successful then the Plan is implemented and it becomes a key document to which to assess planning applications against.
- We expect in the next week or so to have a firm date for the **Referendum, and that it will be held on a Thursday at the end of May or beginning of June, between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m., in the Victory Hall.** A copy of the final Plan to be voted upon will be displayed on our web site and in the village shop once the poll is announced until the vote has closed.

We would like to encourage as many residents as possible to turn out and vote Yes on 23rd May, as the higher the turnout the greater the impact of adoption will be. All being well this will be the last report on the work of Woore NPT. Each member of its core committee has played a key role in this bringing the Plan so close to fruition, whether it being helping draft objectives or the actual Plan, organise publicity whether through adverts or banners and providing thoughtful input at the numerous meetings held. Thanks to this volunteer labour, we have brought this whole project to what we hope is completion at a cost to the Parish of only a few hundred pounds over the £9000 Government grants we received (unlike the £40K it has cost Market Drayton to have their Plan fail its examination.)

We are also very grateful to Andy and Karla Morris for making space to display the current version of the Plan in the shop during each consultation stage, and the coming run up to the Referendum. The end is really in sight now, with the support of Parishioners in May, the Plan should be adopted and be a formal planning document this summer.

If anyone would like further information or to get involved at this final stage do not hesitate to contact us, or email info@woorenpt.org.uk, or log an interest via the website <http://www.woorenpt.org.uk/>.

Jon Furber

Stephen Clifford

Chair Woore NPT

Vice-Chair NPT