

## Notes for Parish meeting March 2014

We had our 6 sessions held in January and February. Thank you for your support. It is disappointing the amount of people who attended. Preston Wynne started well and with 26% of the Electoral role, just over 1 in 4. Withington, a disaster. 3%. Westhild 27% of the Electoral roll.

With the focus on housing, we are going to have a follow on session on the 29<sup>th</sup> March, 10:00 to 16:00, just for the one day. Only in Withington and only on the housing. Highlighting the benefits and disadvantages of the sites that have been recognized. Held in the smaller meeting room downstairs. This will then further feed into the next stage of the process. The questionnaire that will be delivery to every house in the parishes in the May/June timeframe.

Posters will be up soon and the banners are double sided so we will be putting these out as well.

On the feedback, all the details have been taken from the post-it pads and put into electronic format. Shared with the steering members and the team are meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> April to discuss the next steps with the planning person assigned to us and will be feed into the questionnaires I have mentioned.

Jonathan and I will be attending a forum on the 9<sup>th</sup> with other teams working their plans.

One final point around the plan. Please remember why we are doing this, it is about our village, our parishes and how we as members of this group of parishes wish to move ahead with the development of the villages and surrounding areas. If you have any doubts that it is not worth doing, then just see the development plans that are already been delayed until a neighbourhood plan is in place around the country such as in Wiltshire Council has refused a proposed 350-home development on the outskirts of Devizes partly on the grounds that approval would have undermined the neighbourhood plan being prepared for the area.. We are developing ours so we should put all the input into it for the future of our parish. So help get your plan in place and we can drive the future of our villages and parishes and not just wait until someone comes up with a development area to be filled with houses that do not suit the village and surrounding parishes.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS AWAIT OUTCOME OF JUDICIAL REVIEW CASE

Developers have objected to a Neighbourhood Plan (Tattenhall and District) in Cheshire partly because the area's local plan has not yet been adopted. Examinations of other NPs have been delayed pending the outcome of the High Court case at the end of March. 55% of the 980 NPs in preparation and yet to go to referendum are in areas without an adopted local plan – e.g. Herefordshire!

HALC is taking the matter up with other CALCs in the West Midlands to lobby DCLG for clear guidance on the way forward.

The good news is that two NPs have recently passed examination despite the absence of an adopted local plan. The challengers appear to be taking place in areas which are of interest to major developers.

Also <http://hosting.it-mediasolutions.co.uk/village/wiltshire-homes-refused-partly-because-of-neighbourhood-plan-preparation/>

Wiltshire Council has refused a proposed 350-home development on the outskirts of Devizes partly on the grounds that approval would have undermined the neighbourhood plan being prepared for the area.

“To approve an application for a major development of this number of houses in this location at this time would undermine this process,” the council said.

The scheme, proposed by developer Mactaggart and Mickel Homes Ltd, was also rejected on the grounds that the location was beyond the limits of development defined for the town in the Kennet Local Plan. This specified that new development was restricted to “that which is of benefit to the rural economy or the social well-being of the community”.

In addition, the proposals were in conflict with the Draft Wiltshire Core strategy which requires development outside of the limits of development for Devizes to be identified through “community-led planning policy documents including neighbourhood plans”.

The funding will allow English councils to claim up to £100,000 a year to help their communities start a neighbourhood plan, with an additional £25,000 for plans that pass a successful examination.

Councils can also claim up to £25,000 in grants to help communities establish neighbourhood forums in areas with no parish council – the body typically spearheading neighbourhood plans.

DCLG has just published a guide to all the community rights introduced by the Localism Act. The document includes details of the Community Right to Bid, neighbourhood planning, Community Right to Build, Community Shares and the Community Right to Challenge.