

To all Town and Parish Councils

Via email

Shropshire Council
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
Shropshire
SY2 6ND

Date: 08 January 2019

Dear Councillor

Briefing Note re: Shropshire Council's Place Plans

Place Plans are documents which bring together information about a defined area. There are currently 18 Place Plans in Shropshire but, as part of the current refresh of the Plans that number will rise, as Shrewsbury town and its rural hinterland will be divided into separate Place Plans.

The information that the Place Plans contain is focussed on infrastructure needs, such as roads, transport facilities, flood defences, schools and educational facilities, medical facilities, sporting and recreational facilities, and open spaces. They can also include other information which can help us to understand local needs and to make decisions. This wider information includes things like housing needs in light of population changes, and environmental issues in light of development.

In an ideal world, we would be able to support all of the infrastructure needs contained within the Place Plans. However, funding restrictions mean that we have to make some difficult decisions and prioritise the infrastructure that is most important. Place Plans help us to do this.

A brief update on what has happened so far, plus a brief outline about what happens next, is given below:

- Information regarding local infrastructure needs and priorities was submitted to Shropshire Council by Town and Parish Councils at the end of 2017. This ensures that the starting point for the Place Plans is local infrastructure needs, as identified by you.
- The information submitted to us by individual Town and Parish Councils was then collated by Place Plan area, so that all the information for that particular area was gathered into one document.

- The information collated will now be checked against statistics and intelligence held by various teams across Shropshire Council.
- There will then be consultation and review with a range of external infrastructure providers (this includes electricity suppliers, water suppliers, Broadband companies, the Environment Agency, etc.) in order to make sure that their strategic infrastructure projects – which are vital to all of us – are also factored in to the Place Plans.
- We will then hold meetings in all Place Plan areas during March, April, and May 2019 to feed back on the steps above, and to hear your views and Elected Members' views on the refreshed Place Plans. Council staff from a number of different teams will be available at these meetings to answer questions and provide further information.

By following this step by step process – starting with the views of our local communities and then adding in further information and points of view from a wide range of partners – we will be able to more clearly understand the needs of each Place Plan area. We can then use this comprehensive understanding and knowledge to jointly make some difficult decisions about prioritisation of projects.

The dates for the March to May meetings will be arranged shortly, and a further update and diary markers will follow in the next few weeks.

In the meantime, if you have pressing local infrastructure projects that you wish to progress in the short term, please remember that (as stated in our update of 17 December 2018) the CIL Local fund is open for applications, although you should carefully check the eligibility criteria before submitting an application. Further (as stated in our update of 19 November 2018) many Town and Parish Councils have also been allocated Neighbourhood Fund monies, which can be spent on a wide range of local infrastructure projects.

Yours faithfully,



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