

Woore Parish Neighbourhood Plan Public Meeting
Held at Woore Victory Hall on Friday 11th March 2016

Present: Approximately 35 members of the public.

Also present: Councillor (Cllr) Mike Moore (Chairman, Parish Council (PC)), Cllr Malcolm Blake (Vice Chairman, PC), Cllr Althea Allison, Cllr Helen Blake, Cllr Clifford, Cllr Mike Cowey, Cllr Helen Lightfoot, Cllr Frank Woodcock, Shropshire Council (SC) Cllr John Cadwallader, Nicola Fisher SC Senior Community Enablement Officer (based in Market Drayton Town Council Offices) and Sarah Pimlott, Clerk to PC.

1. Introduction

Mike Moore welcomed everyone to the meeting. He said the purpose of the meeting was to explain the purpose of a Neighbourhood Plan. With the aid of a plan of the Parish, he highlighted the areas recently developed for housing in Woore, Ireland's Cross and Pipe Gate (e.g. Priory Lane - 38 dwellings and Pipe Gate - 50 dwellings). The areas coloured yellow on the plan were sites with existing planning permissions for housing, not yet developed. The area coloured purple was the site on the Newcastle Road where SC had refused an application for 75 homes and where the developers have recently appealed against that refusal.

Mike said the purpose of an NP was to try to influence future development of all kinds in Woore and to plan for the future infrastructure and needs of the whole community living and working in the Parish.

Mike said that Nicola Fisher, had kindly agreed to give up her time to explain to those present the potential benefits of Woore having an NP and what was required of the Parish to achieve a NP.

2. Presentation

Nicola, by way of introduction, explained that the SC area was a bit of a black hole for NPs unlike some local government areas. She is working with Market Drayton and Stoke on Tern to deliver NPs in their neighbourhoods.

Nicola talked through some slides which she had prepared for the meeting. For details of those slides, please follow this link: <http://www.woorenpt.org.uk/160311-Neighbourhood%20Planning%20Woore.pdf>

3. Question and Answer Session

At the conclusion of her presentation, Nicola asked if anyone had any questions about NPs. A number of questions were raised by members of the public including:

- Was there more to an NP than planning for houses? The parishioner raising the question said that she was more interested in the infrastructure to sustain the community in Woore. Nicola stressed that the NP would consider recreation, health, business etc. It would be the responsibility of the NP Steering Group to decide the issues which the NP should address in the light of the community's views and input. The NP would become a policy document for the Parish. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) grant which the Parish received from SC, currently 15% without an NP, would increase to 25% if the Parish achieved an NP. This grant was designated to be used to support the Parish infrastructure.
- How would having an NP effect the 2006 Parish Council's Place Plan? Nicola advised that an NP would refresh the Parish Place Plan and would consider wider issues than that Plan.
- How long would it take to achieve an NP? Nicola suggested that it would be ideal to carry out the referendum at the same time as the local elections are held which, in the case of Woore, would be May 2017. The evidence was that, if the two were held together, there would be a higher turnout in the NP referendum. Cllr Clifford advised that Audlem Parish delivered its NP within 15 months. Cllr Clifford said that the speed with which an NP was put in place was dependent on the efforts of the volunteers who worked on its creation and so the first thing which was needed was enrolling those volunteers.
- What would be the relationship between Woore's NP and the NPs of other local parishes? Mike Moore said that it was for each parish to devise its own NP having regard to its own priorities, its own needs and its own circumstances.
- How do you tackle local infrastructure issues in an NP when some of those issues are outside local control? An example was given of the problems posed by the A51 which runs through the centre of the Parish but which is the responsibility of SC. It was explained that, in the course of creating the NP, a questionnaire would be circulated to parishioners which would invite them to specify problems which they thought needed tackling. If the results of that questionnaire highlighted widespread concerns about, say, the A51, the questionnaire's answers would constitute an evidence base which would assist in influencing SC to take remedial action.
- Could the NP be used by the PC to get more done for the Parish? Over the last 20+ years, the size of the community in Woore has grown significantly, but as the community had grown, the infrastructure has reduced. That time ago, there had been a butchers, a bank and a GP service and there had been better transport links. Nicola confirmed that the evidence base provided by the NP, in respect of

the infrastructure or lack of it, could be used to push for additional resources. The starting point for improving the infrastructure was to complete the NP.

4. Note of Thanks

At the conclusion of the Question and Answer Session, Mike Moore, on behalf of the PC, thanked Nicola for her presentation.

5. Vote for or against an NP

Stephen Clifford stressed that an NP would provide base line evidence which SC and other public organisations would have to consider when taking decisions about planning, infrastructure and the delivery of services to the whole community living in the Parish. Mike Moore confirmed that an NP was an opportunity for the community to influence the direction of the Parish and its community in future years.

Mike Moore asked those persons present to raise their hands if they believed that Woore should pursue an NP for the Parish. On a show of hands, at least two thirds of those present voted in favour.

6. Further Meeting to Sign up Volunteers

Mike Moore stressed that, in order to deliver the NP, community volunteers were required. He invited those present who were interested in volunteering to attend a further meeting on Wednesday 16th March at 7.30 pm at the Victory Hall.