



Neighbourhood Development Plan

Protecting rural character while allowing for appropriate development

The month just past saw the second series of Roadshows, held at Aston, Maer and Whitmore village halls. Thank you to all who came along and participated. At each event there was a presentation on progress to date, the Questionnaire results and the proposed Vision and Aims for the Neighbourhood Plan. This was followed by lively discussions and there was a display of charts showing the Questionnaire results, maps of the three parishes and the Neighbourhood Map.

The consultation at Aston produced two new ideas that were well received. The first was for daytime use of the village halls as local enterprise centres with hotdesking facilities. This would be ideal for home-workers who would like to get out of the house during the day and have some contact with other people who are running small businesses. Both Aston and Maer village halls are attractive places where a pleasant working environment could be created. Are **you** interested? Please get in touch with us. Also, if you would be interested in the eventual establishment of a more permanent local enterprise centre with a range of facilities for small businesses we'd like to hear from you.

Aston's second idea came out of a discussion on the need for smaller dwellings in the Neighbourhood Area. Perhaps it's time to start dividing some of the larger houses into smaller units, someone suggested. We took Aston's ideas to Maer for a second airing. There was much interest in them both. Dividing some of the larger dwellings into smaller units would create accommodation attractive to younger people and that they could afford. It might help young people who have grown up here to stay in the area, rather than moving away, and others who work here to live here rather than commuting in.

At Maer there was also discussion about local green space and giving protection to the wide verges of the A51 and the large semi-circle of grass at The Croft at Blackbrook. The verges are important for a variety of reasons. Not least, they offer safety to pedestrians on the A51, which links many important lanes and footpaths. The desirability of a footway from Maer Lodge to Stableford was also noted. If you know a green space that you think needs protection, whether for wildlife, community use or to preserve local character, please let us know.

The final Roadshow, at Whitmore village hall, was attended by participants from Baldwins Gate, Acton, Butterton, Madeley Park Wood, Chorlton Moss, Chapel Chorlton, Blackbrook and Aston. As at the previous events, handouts with the Vision, Aims and Policy Themes and discussion points were placed on the chairs for participants to pick up and read as they arrived. In open discussion after the formal presentation participants endorsed Vision for the Plan and warmly commended the Steering Group for its work and a job 'well done'.

Provision for locally based businesses was a topic of discussion once again, including the prospects for returning the old Whitmore Station Ticket Office to use. On housing, it was noted that although Baldwins Gate seems an obvious location because of its services, especially sewerage, there may be a need for one or two houses or a workshop here and there in the smaller settlements. The display of charts from the Questionnaire, individual parish maps and the Neighbourhood Map drew a great deal of interest.

To read more about the Roadshows click on the 'Latest News' tab on the website. Are there ideas or issues you would like to discuss? Please contact the Steering Group!

Visit the website: www.cmaw-neighbourhoodplan.org.uk

Email us: cmaw-neighbourhoodplan@hotmail.com