

The Neighbourhood Plan – it's *YOUR* future!

News roundup

Much has happened in the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) project since the last Newsletter.

In November and December there were a series of five Roadshows around the Neighbourhood Area. These were two-way communication events. They allowed the NDP project group to explain what neighbourhood planning is all about. And they allowed you to voice your ideas and concerns about the future development of the area and to discuss specific issues that your communities face.

More recently, the NDP had its own stand at the Information Day in Whitmore Village Hall on 12 March and this provided another opportunity for you to voice your ideas and discuss specific issues.

Ahead of the Information Day the entire Neighbourhood Area was leafleted. And by the time you read this Newsletter some of you will have seen the NDP banners on display in Baldwins Gate and in other locations around the Neighbourhood Area.

On 13 April there will be an event at Baldwins Gate school, organised especially for the parents, and a competition for the children to create a design for one of the NDP banners.

We were pleased to learn that the NDP project qualifies to receive government funding to a maximum £14,000 and a range of technical support. Our first tranche of funding paid for the leaflets, the banners and materials for the Information Day, among other things. Our first technical support will be for a professionally conducted Housing Needs Assessment.

Introducing the logo

The NDP project now has its own logo! From now on you will see it on all our leaflets, publicity and other documents. The logo shows the outline of the Neighbourhood Area and its three parishes gently cradled in a pair of hands. **Your hands!**



It's *YOUR* plan!

The NDP is **YOUR** plan, it needs **your** input and the participation and support of the whole community. This is a critical aspect of the NDP process – because the finished Plan will require **your** vote in a local referendum. Only then will it receive legal status and become an integral part of the Local Plan for the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme.

The NDP work is now entering into a new stage. Building on your input at the Roadshows we have identified 9 key areas that will set the direction for the NDP. These are:

- Ensuring that we have the type of development that is right for our communities, which at the same time protects our countryside.
- Providing housing types, medical and care facilities to meet the needs of older residents.
- Affordable housing for younger people and those on lower incomes
- Renovating and converting vacant and derelict buildings to provide housing and business facilities.
- Supporting local shopping facilities and helping local businesses to thrive and grow.
- Providing a range of business and employment opportunities that are appropriate to the rural area.
- Ensuring that we have public transport that meets the needs of our communities.
- Providing community facilities for all ages.
- Protecting our local green and built heritage as an asset both for our community and for tourists and visitors to the area.

These are the issues that you have told us are important to you. If there are others that you feel are not covered in this list, please let us know, using the contact form on the NDP website. You will have an opportunity to provide further input on these 9 key areas in the detailed questionnaire survey that will be sent to every household in due course.

The Neighbourhood Plan is a unique opportunity for **YOU** to have a real say on what your community will look like in the years to come. Please take full advantage of this opportunity to contribute and to help shape the future of **YOUR** community.

Visit the Neighbourhood Plan website at www.cmaw-neighbourhoodplan.org.uk!
Use the contact form to send us your ideas or to volunteer your assistance to the project. We look forward to hearing from you.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan Group