



Shropshire Local Plan – Special Edition

Make your voice heard NOW about the huge number of houses planned for our irreplaceable Shropshire countryside!



Shropshire Council's Local Plan Review

We need you to tell Shropshire Council how misguided it is with its Plan, and to break this merry-go-round of continually increasing targets. We think:

- The Council's housing target is unrealistically high. So is its employment target
- The way it has chosen the 'Hub' villages to take on rural development is very debatable

Do please respond (see p3). Read on for more detail, and you can also visit our website at www.cpreshire.org.uk/local-plan-review.

Shropshire Council has to review its Local Plan – that's the crucial document that sets what gets built in our beautiful county. The Council is now seeking views on its current proposals ("Preferred Options") for 2016-36, which emerged from the previous consultation on earlier options.

We think that **the Council is being unrealistically ambitious**. Why not have more sustainable targets, based on genuine need? These may be **no more than about 18,000 houses** up to 2036. Anything over and above that is satisfying market demand, rather than meeting genuine need. What we really do need though is **more affordable houses**, and relying on developers to build these just won't achieve that. Neither will the Government's much-trumpeted plans.

The Council says that much of its ambitious 28,750 target is already in the pipeline but only 1,910 houses had been built by April 2017 so there are an awful lot of houses still to build!

Headlines from these Preferred Options

- **'High' housing growth of 28,750 dwellings** (although most people wanted the lowest option in the previous consultation); 7,875 (27%) of these are earmarked for the villages, but exactly where those rural houses will go won't be revealed until early 2018.
- Employment growth to deliver **14,900 new jobs on a minimum of 300 hectares** of development land (again most people voted for less than this);
- **An 'objective' method of deciding on which 'Hub' villages they should concentrate** for the rural development (several of the proposed Hubs don't think the Council's 'objective' scoring system is fit for purpose);
- **Over and above this**, undisclosed development is likely at strategic locations such as Ironbridge Power Station, Clive Barracks, and potential new Garden Village settlements; Green Belt land east of Telford and Bridgnorth is also likely to be released for development (no further details of any of this have yet been disclosed).

That's why we need you to tell the Council how misguided it is. To read more, the Council documents are at: <https://shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/local-plan-review-preferred-scale-and-distribution-of-development/>

But it's a lot of reading . . . the guide on our website is shorter. If you don't have internet access, you'll have to visit your local library or Council office to see the documents.

Call to Action—Please Act Now!

Please help us protect our unique Shropshire countryside. We are the only charity which campaigns to protect the landscape and also the communities who manage and depend on the land. We depend entirely on you, our members, to fund and support this work.

We hope you can spare just 20 minutes to help us let Shropshire Council know you share our concerns about the unjustifiably high housing numbers that are being proposed in the Revised Local Plan. This will determine for the next 20 years how many houses will be built and where they will be sited.

Attached to this copy of *Shropshire Voice*, you will find a copy of Shropshire Council's Consultation Questionnaire. We need as many people as possible to return this questionnaire before the consultation closes on 22nd December 2017.

To save you time, we have filled in much of the questionnaire for you. However, question 3 is the really key one where we need you to express your own views.

If there is insufficient room on the questionnaire itself to make your voice heard, please continue on another sheet and attach it when you return it to Shropshire Council. If you have friends or family who would also like to have their say, please make additional copies of the Consultation Questionnaire (it's also on our website).

So all we are asking, is that you fill in your personal details on the first page. Then for question 3 on the second page, tick the relevant box (hopefully 'No'), and complete the 'comments' box in your own words. Then return it by email or post to the address given.

Remember, the deadline for responses is Friday December 22!



URGENT!

Thank you!

We would like to say a huge 'thank you' to all our members for their continuing support. As a charity, we have no external core funding so our work would simply not be possible without our members and supporters.

Can you be our Eyes and Ears?

We need people 'on the ground' in all parts of the county to be our 'eyes and ears' and to contact us if they read, see or hear of any planning applications coming up locally that could damage our beautiful Shropshire countryside.

If you think you can help us, contact Sarah Jameson (contact details opposite) and we will let you know how it works.

Do you have an email address we do not know about?

To save resources and to enable us to communicate urgent and important news with our members, we aim to send future newsletters via email to all members who have an email address. We already communicate with over half of our membership in this way. If you have an email address and are happy to receive Shropshire Voice electronically please let Sarah have your email address (on admin@cpreshropshire.org.uk). If you do not have an email address, do not worry, we will continue to send your newsletter by post!

Our next issue of Shropshire Voice will include:

- Poultry mega farm units – a worrying trend in rural Shropshire?
- The importance of small, mixed family farms for our landscape
- Local Plan update
- "My Shropshire" – a new occasional article written by young people in Shropshire

If there are any articles you would like to see in the newsletter, please let us know!

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