



Wem Rural Parish Council

Leadership in Planning for the Future of the Community

The Parish Council is in the process of refreshing its Community Plan having published its original plan in 2013. A copy is available on the Parish Council's website. The Council's Business Plan builds on the Parish Plan 2013 and includes the on-going requirements for maintenance of Parish infrastructure and assets.

The Parish Council response to Local Plan review / SAMDev consultation was to designate the parish as 'Countryside'. This decision was taken in consultation with Planning Policy Officers on the understanding the Council could review its decision at a future date outside a formal review. However, the Planning Inspector did not agree with Shropshire Council approach and the option to re-designate parts of the parish had to wait until a formal Local Plan review.

In 2012, the Parish Council was approached by Severnside Housing to collaborate in a Community-Led Housing Scheme. This partnership resulted in 23 houses being built at Round Meadow under the Local Connection Exception Site planning policies. The Parish Council received a grant of £69,000 under Shropshire Council's Community-Led Housing Scheme.

With the Council wishing to be prepared for the next Local Plan review, a Housing Needs Survey was completed in 2015. The results confirmed the Council's intention to allow open market development in the parish. Several villages have been put forward under the current Local Plan review as 'Clusters'.

Due to the very limited potential development in the parish, the Parish Council is not seeking to produce a Neighbourhood Plan in the foreseeable future. Although, the Council acknowledges the advantages and benefits of such a Plan, it is considered more relevant when a higher volume of development is expected.

The Parish Council responds to all planning applications in the Parish and encourages local residents and businesses to attend Council meetings when their planning applications are to be considered. There can be issues, especially if objections have already been raised, and to hear explanations from the applicants allows the Council to consider all material considerations. However, the Council cannot always support the proposals put before it. If applications are referred to Shropshire Council Planning Committee, the Council always attends and explains the basis for the objection.

The Council participation in the Wem Economic Forum provides opportunity to influence decisions on matters in the wider area, Wem Town, where they impact on the Wem Rural residents and businesses.

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