

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

What Is It?

In 2011 the government introduced the Localism Bill which enables local communities to have more control of the planning process in their area through Neighbourhood Plans.

Although developed by residents these plans have to conform to the planning guidelines of the Local Authority – particularly those set out in the Herefordshire Core Strategy published earlier this year.

Why Is It Important?

For many years any sort of development in the village and surrounding countryside has been severely restricted.

The Herefordshire Core Strategy has identified Hope under Dinmore and Newton as villages where development is allowed to take place within certain guidelines - an average of 15% between now and 2030 – roughly 20 or so new houses.

It must be pointed out that this 15% average applies to a number of villages so some could have 5% increase and another 30%.

This means that there is now a potential for housing development to take place within the village on any land that the local planning department consider suitable.

Why a Neighbourhood Plan?

We cannot stop the growth of the village, but by creating a Neighbourhood Plan, local residents can determine the site, size and scope of any developments.

Once a plan has been set up it has to be put to a referendum of all villagers and if approved will become legally binding.

If we do not create a plan, we as residents, will have practically no control over the potential impact of new housing in the village.

Where Next?

Herefordshire council will help us to develop and implement the plan, but it is up to local residents to produce the proposals.

The recommended route is to set up a small steering group to create a draft proposal which is then made available to residents for discussion.

If you would like to be involved, please contact -

Kathy Clarkson
01568 615149

