

Queniborough's Quest for a Neighbourhood Plan Continues

"Having a Neighbourhood Plan in place won't stop development but it will enable you to say where any development must go".

"You can (subject to agreement with the local council) give a percentage figure for the number of houses allowed to be built in your parish".

"Any Neighbourhood Plan must be resident led; you must have tamper proof information and ensure that any evidence you collect is verifiable"

These are quotes from Mike Ward from Foxton , who have successfully completed their Neighbourhood Plan.

Six members of your Steering Group attended a Leicestershire County Council (LCC) networking event designed to share information and provide avenues of expertise. When we arrived we agreed that we would split up and all join different tables to ensure that we gain maximum advantage from the event.

We made a number of contacts from Charnwood Borough Council, LCC and surrounding villages. These are the people we intend to stay in touch with and share experiences and progress.

We also had an update on the targets being set across the country for new houses that need to be built. Leicestershire needs to build more than 96,000 homes during the period 2011 – 2031. This will be particularly challenging for Leicester, Charnwood and Harborough. These targets will be passed down to the parishes, including ours. The planners don't currently know what our target will be, but it will be set shortly so we need to be ready when faced with the figure. If our Neighbourhood Plan is completed or even being prepared we can use it to discuss and debate Queniborough's potential target. Without a Neighbourhood Plan that target could be imposed.

Two key points from the event were:-

- If you have a Neighbourhood Plan in place you can have a discussion about developments, they will not be imposed.
- If you think you'll get away with no development, **THINK AGAIN!**

At our meeting in May we decided to develop a logo for our Neighbourhood Plan. To that end our Chair Pam Jones asked Joy Hardy, Queniborough School's headmistress, if she would like to involve the children in drawing a suitable logo. Joy thought that it was a great idea and set the plan in motion. Pam and Mike Bunn then attended a school assembly to outline the idea to the children and answer any questions they may have. Letters went out to parents and Liz Ellis will collect all the entries when they're ready. There will be three categories of winners: reception; key stage one and key stage two and the overall winning entry will be chosen at our Steering Group meeting at the end of June. There will be a £25 book voucher for each of the category winners and a further £25 for the logo chosen by the Steering Group. This logo will then be used on all our documentation and communications.

Our next step is to secure the funding we need to really get the ball rolling. We can't move on more drop-in sessions, questionnaires etc. until that is in place because you cannot get funding retrospectively. We are receiving quotations from the consultants we have interviewed and those quotations will form the basis of the application we put in, via the Parish Council, to the appropriate funding bodies.

Our intention is to make this process transparent so all our documents and the minutes of our meeting are now available on the Parish Councils website under <http://www.queniboroughpc.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan.html>. Please feel free to have a look.

If you would like more information or like to get involved please contact Mike Jones via email on Jones.michael8@sky.com or telephone on 0116 260 7773. Thanks in advance.

Pam Jones, for and on behalf of the QNP Steering Group.