

The Neighbourhood Plan -Initial Survey Complete

As we wait for the full results of the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire to come in, we can say that some issues clearly struck a chord with those who responded to the survey in the December issue of the Messenger. A clear consensus emerged on the possibility of a marina in the vicinity of Victoria Wharf whilst the subject of a new site for sports facilities (currently at Greenfields) prompted a lot of comment.

The survey was administrated by Data Orchard, a Hereford based company which is facilitating the project. Action points have been agreed that include events for sampling public reaction to key survey results and presentations of the policy options. Potential development sites will be assessed and this fed back into development of the plan.

Early results showed that the highest proportion of responders came from the over 45 age groups and outnumbered the views of younger groups. To redress the balance, Roger Hughes of Market Drayton Town Council instigated an initiative with the Grove school in which students produced a questionnaire relevant to young people's concerns. Students were encouraged to draw their parents into the consultation process too.

"A panel of Grove students attended a working session at the Town Hall (see right). Following this the closing date for responses was extended to 12th February to allow time for students to register their opinions. The steering committee found this to have been very informative and a great help in understanding the views that young people hold about how they want to see Market Drayton in the future. 260 responses were given." said Roger Hughes.

A summary of some of the results will be published in the June edition of the messenger. Unfortunately they were not available for this issue, but they will be available on the Town Council website later this month. The site has been upgraded and is well worth book marking for future reference:

<http://www.marketdrayton.gov.uk/>

The first draft Neighbourhood Plan should be complete by the end of June 2016. This will contain options for further discussion and public feedback over a 6 week consultation period during which it will also be possible to make formal representations. In the mean time keep a look out for public events that will show key survey results and where there will be opportunities to talk to representatives about your views on the objectives and policy options.



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