Community and Governance Meeting

19 September 2024

Appendix CG070

Shropshire Council has been carrying out a full review of the Shropshire Council Place Plans during the last 12 months, and the outcomes of this process were formally adopted by Shropshire Council’s Cabinet on 13th March 2024.

The key objective of the Place Plans is to provide a robust, up-to-date and credible evidence base of the infrastructure needs of communities, including those needs resulting from the impacts of new development.  Given this process will directly inform decisions on future investment, it is essential that this process is based on sound and reasoned evidence.

As part of this process, we provided Town and Parish Councils with the opportunity to nominate infrastructure items for inclusion in the Place Plans. Senior officers from across Shropshire Council have been assessing these nominations and can now start to feedback the responses of the nominations your Council made to the Place Plans.

The table below shows the nominations made by your Council, along with feedback on the status of these nominations. It is important to recognise that maintaining the Place Plans and assessing nominations is an ongoing process. A number of nominations were agreed and included on the relevant Place Plan. Where nominated items have not been included on the updated Place Plans we have provided the rationale. This could be that we are awaiting more information from a partner organisation or need more details from your Council to help us fully assess the nomination. On occasions items have not been included as a result of concerns that this would not be the most appropriate intervention for a local area.

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| **Ref No if allocated** | **Place Plan** | **Town/ Parish** | **Items for consideration** | **Infrastructure type** | **Status of nomination for inclusion on published Place Plan** | **Additional information about the nomination** |
| 1067 | Market Drayton | Market Drayton Town Council | The project is to extend the 30 mile an hour speed limit on Buntingsdale Road to the end of the residential area.  The road is narrow and not suitable for traffic travelling over 30 miles an hour. Residents have raised this as an issue and would support the extension. | Highways | No not enough information | The Town or Parish Council have the option to pay for a traffic survey the approximate cost of this is £600 - £1000. If there is significant speed issues detected this can then be added to the Place Plan |
| 1068 | Market Drayton | Market Drayton Town Council | New cemetery land requirement. The current cemetery will be full in approximately 10 years’ time.  There is no land within the Town boundary that is suitable for future burial land, therefore land will need to be purchased from outside of the town.  This is a Town Council project. | Cemetery and Burials | Yes | Shropshire Council does not operate the burial ground in this locality, but if the Town or Parish Council wish to fund expanded provision at this site it can be added to the Place Plan |
| 1069 | Market Drayton | Market Drayton Town Council | Town Council would like to make the public buildings more energy efficient. | Climate Change and Community Energy | Yes | This project has been added to the Place Plan |
| 1070 | Market Drayton | Market Drayton Town Council | To replace/renew the finger post signs and install new larger bins within the Town Centre. | Street Scene Lighting, benches and signage | No not enough information | More detail on the project needed from the Town or Parish. This can be followed up with a further discussion with the Place Plan officer |
| 2084 | Market Drayton | Market Drayton Town Council | Upgrade and addition of sporting facilities Market Drayton Upgrading of facilities at Greenfields sports ground, Market Drayton to include new club house, improved car parking and access and construction of new Astroturf pitch at The Grove school | Leisure and Sport | Yes | This project has been added to the Place Plan |

In addition to details of your nominations, you can also view the up-to-date list of all the Place Plan projects in your Council area on our new Place Plan webpages

<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/place-plans/place-plan-projects-by-area/>

The infrastructure needs identified in the Place Plans represent a full range of infrastructure types, including transport and accessibility, health, utilities, education, outdoor recreation and economic opportunities. Importantly, the Place Plans assign a priority status to the identified projects: ‘Priority A’, ‘Priority B’ and ‘Neighbourhood’.

Priority ‘A’ infrastructure is considered to be those items which are essential to the delivery of development, generally including additional utility provision, improvements to strategic highways, new and enhanced school provision, and new and enhanced medical provision.

Priority ‘B’ infrastructure is considered necessary to improve areas, in particular to support the growth expectations set out in the current and emerging Local Plans and other Council development strategies. As such, there is an expectation that the Council may need to use its CIL Local and Strategic funding to support the delivery of these projects where they are associated with the cumulative impact of new development.

‘Neighbourhood’ infrastructure is considered important to a local community and the expectation is these will normally be led by partners in the local area, including the parish and town councils. As such, there is a general expectation that the CIL Neighbourhood Fund (i.e. the proportion of CIL which is maintained and allocated by the parish and town councils) will be the priority source of funding for these schemes, alongside any wider external grant support.

The Place Plan process remains a live and ongoing process and Town and Parish Councils can continue to nominate infrastructure items for inclusion on the Place Plan via our online nomination form in the link below. Please note this form is to nominate new items and there is no need to nominate items that are already on the nomination list provided, or on our published Place Plans on the webpages

[Place Plan item nomination form](https://forms.office.com/e/iCN3xpk4hk)

**Future updates to the Place Plans**

In recognition that the Place Plans are inevitably a picture in time, Shropshire Council Cabinet agreed that new items can continue to be considered, and if appropriate, added to the Place Plans through the delegated powers of the Assistant Director of Economy and Place in consultation with the Council’s Internal Infrastructure Group (IIG) and the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Services.

**Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Local Expressions of Interest**

As you’re aware, expressions of interest (EoI) for CIL Local Funding have been on hold while the Place Plan review has taken place. Now that the review has been completed new expressions of interest (EOIs) are again being accepted by Shropshire Council.

As outlined above, the Council’s focus for CIL Strategic and CIL Local funds will primarily be on Priority A and B items identified in the updated Place Plans.  It is expected therefore that in the majority of cases successful EOIs will be focussed on these priority items, which are likely to be led by internal Council departments, such as Education and Highways, or by third party partner organisations such as the Integrated Care Board (ICB).  EOIs will be assessed by Shropshire Council’s Internal Infrastructure Group, who meet quarterly.

It is important, however, to recognise the continued role of Parish and Town Councils in this process, even where they are not leading on expressions of interest. An example of this is with highway schemes, which are clearly important locally but sometimes take a number of years to be delivered due to the need prioritise our programme of works.  We recognise this time lag between CIL approval and delivery can be frustrating, which is why over the next few months the Council will be developing a more strategic view on the highway work programme.  This process recognises that not all highway schemes can be delivered at the same time, and we want to work with parish and town councils to identify how we prioritise bringing these schemes forward.

Finally, the Council remains committed to working with Parish and Town Councils in understanding and enabling the delivery of necessary infrastructure for the benefit of local communities.  However, in recognition of the recent and ongoing changes to the Council as it responds to its financial challenges, it is only fair we make you aware that the capacity of the Place Plan Officers to support you on these matters will be reduced, you will receive more information on this, but this is likely to mean the frequency and availability of officers to attend meetings and to respond to requests for information will reduce.