

Press release 6

On April 9th almost 200 people came to the Victoria Hall to start developing your Oakham Neighbourhood Plan. Since then your Neighbourhood Plan Steering has been analysing over 300 ideas, issues and concerns that you provided during the event.

The range of suggestions made is very wide and diverse and some of them are outside the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan.

These are the things that the Plan can and cannot achieve:

A Neighbourhood Plan can	A Neighbourhood Plan cannot
Identify most suitable sites for the development of housing, shops, industrial units, etc	Determine who will build and which companies will trade
Decide the type and style of housing	Prevent development agreed or reversal of any existing planning decisions
Identify open spaces, ie where development should not take place	Conflict with local, national and EU policies
Influence town centre developments	Decide which shops etc will trade
Conserve important buildings	Determine the use of existing buildings
Set required improvements to infrastructure and facilities	Decide who will provide services or how these services will operate

The initial areas you want us to focus on are:

- The Town Centre experience and parking
- The provision of community facilities for art and entertainment
- The development of land use ensuring open spaces are retained
- The attractiveness and welcome Oakham provides to residents and tourists

A number of additional suggestions were made and concerns raised which are outside the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan. We recognise that they are very important to you and these will be forwarded to the appropriate bodies.

Among them are:

- Medical provision available
- Types of shops in the town
- The state of footpaths
- The provision of leisure activities

Remember, this is the beginning of a public consultation programme. As the draft plan is developed you will have a continuing opportunity to influence and comment on this. It is only through your on going involvement that we can claim to have created a Neighbourhood Plan that meets your needs.

What happens next?

A number of residents have expressed a willingness to become involved in the development of the Plan. They will be contacted in the near future and invited to a Working Group formation meeting. During this time the key stages of the Plan's development will be explained. They will have the opportunity to tell us their areas of particular interest and the experience and skills they can bring to Working Groups.

If you want to join a Working Group and haven't already provided us with your contact details , please let us know by emailing enquiries@oakhamtowncouncil.gov.uk or telephoning 01572 723627

Remember, its Your Voice, Your Choice.