

On 7th September 2023 the Pontesbury Parish Neighbourhood Plan was supported by 86% of the voters in the Local Referendum. As a result, it has now been adopted by Shropshire Council as part of their Development Plan which means that it will help to decide future planning applications relating to our parish. In order to be adopted the Plan had to satisfy the external examiner that its policies represented the views of the local community as expressed in the extensive consultations which took place.

The policies relate to:

- housing provision and design
- protecting local landscape character and rights of way
- increasing biodiversity and reducing carbon emissions
- safeguarding community services
- small scale employment and farm diversification
- amenity views and protection of local green spaces

The core purpose of the Plan is to encourage future development to respect and enhance the existing character of Pontesbury Parish. There will be a considerable increase in CIL money awarded to the Parish for infrastructure improvements now that the Plan has been approved.

The impact of the Neighbourhood Plan is already in evidence in terms of planning decisions taken by Shropshire Council and how housing designs have been drawn up.

It is no mean feat to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. Only half a dozen Shropshire parishes have so far completed one and our Plan was made possible only as a result of many hundreds of parishioners who responded to the essential consultations.