

STONE TOWN COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

TOWN COUNCIL TO PRODUCE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Stone Town Council is intending to produce a Neighbourhood Plan for the Town Council area.

A Neighbourhood Plan is a means by which the Town Council can refine Stafford Borough Council's planning policies to ensure that developments within Stone meet more closely the needs of Stone residents. This could include, for example, protecting local green space, securing improvements to the High Street, ensuring that the right mix of housing is provided for the town or securing developer contributions for improving facilities for young people or improving community and health care facilities.

The Council has formed a Steering Group consisting of both Councillors and local non-Councillors to oversee the production of the Plan. One of the Group's first tasks will be to consult residents and businesses in Stone to clarify what we want for our town and how the Neighbourhood Plan can help us achieve it. We need to be clear about the things in the town that need to be protected, those that need improvement and those that should be stopped.

Ultimately, following a successful referendum within the town, Stafford Borough Council would be required to adhere to the Stone Neighbourhood Plan when considering all planning applications within the Town Council area.

Before the Plan can be produced, approval is required from Stafford Borough Council. The process of gaining this approval has been started and the Borough Council should soon be consulting locally on whether a Plan should be produced for the Town Council area.

Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, Councillor Jill Hood, said "This is an exciting opportunity for the town to take charge of its own future development, and to ensure that the views of Stone people are taken fully into account when planning decisions are made in Stafford. I would welcome and appreciate the full support of the town."

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