

## **Full steam ahead for Midsomer Norton's Neighbourhood Plan**

With many local people concerned at the level of development, Midsomer Norton Town Council has made it clear that it's full steam ahead on the production its Neighbourhood Plan with a view to getting it in place in the next 12 months. In order to achieve this, the Town Council is calling for local residents and businesses to come forward to take part in the process at various levels.

Neighbourhood Plans are a new type of planning document which give local people a much greater say in the future of their communities and will be a statutory document. Neighbourhood Plans must reflect local needs, as the final stage is a local referendum when electors entitled to vote to say whether the plan is what they want.

The plan must conform to strategic planning policy, which includes the B&NES Core Strategy produced by the District Council, so this will be taken into account by the Steering Group who will be leading the process forward. Within the B&NES Draft Core Strategy there is an identified need for potentially 2470 new homes required in the Somer Valley, and the Neighbourhood Plan will consider what sort of homes should be provided and what sort of infrastructure should be in place to support development.

The Town Council will be building on the Community Planning process they have been engaging in, along with the Community Forum, over the last couple of years which included a consultation with all households in October last year building on this information to incorporate it into the final document. The Midsomer Norton Neighbourhood Plan will set out a vision for the future of the town for the next twenty years and will consider issues including housing, employment, transport, town centre and the environment.

Midsomer Norton is just starting the Plan which will identify planning and development issues for the area. These will be explored in more detail through drop in days, local publicity and community engagement forums. So if you're interested in taking part in one of the project groups who will be working on the plan, please ring the Town Clerk on 01761 418701 or email [townclerk@midsomernortontowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:townclerk@midsomernortontowncouncil.co.uk). Also, have a look at our Facebook page Plan MSN and like us, and follow us on Twitter @PlanMSN.