

Shadwell Neighbourhood Plan

Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 16th April 2018

This is a five-minute update about the Shadwell Neighbourhood Plan.

Many people here tonight will remember that we had a meeting in 2012, in this room, when it was decided to pursue a Neighbourhood Plan for the village. At that time there was concern about a possible risk of extensive and unwanted new development in the Leeds Outer North East area. The Localism Act had just come into force, in April 2012, which enables some local input to the planning process.

Producing a Neighbourhood Plan is an unexpectedly long and increasingly technical process: we were held up for some time while Leeds prepared its final version of the plan allocating housing sites, (none of which are proposed for Shadwell). Also, twice while we waited for Grant funding, mainly needed for Professional planning advice and guidance. The process of preparing the plan, consulting and amending, is an iterative one, and all takes time. But with patience and determination we are getting there, bit by bit, thanks to our small team of local volunteers, our Professional Planning advisor, Peter Baker, our webmaster Simon Dobson, the support of the Parish Council and our City Councillor Matthew Robinson.

The Neighbourhood Plan will help to shape development in the village over the next fifteen years. When adopted, it will form part of the statutory Local Development Plan for the city. There are over 40 Neighbourhood Plans within the Leeds area (the largest number for any authority in the country) either being prepared or adopted (eight have now been “made”, to give it the correct term).

Shadwell Neighbourhood Plan will include policies to guide any proposed developments within the Parish, so that they meet our vision for the future of the village. That vision was agreed through the village wide public consultation in early 2013, and is summarised as the following:

- Shadwell’s village atmosphere – the distinct identity provided by its rural setting, its heritage and visual character – will be retained and strengthened;

- existing valued facilities and structures will be retained and sensitively improved to provide a stimulating social and educational environment for all;
- residents' ability to move about safely will be improved, and good links between Shadwell and its surroundings will be maintained;
- residents of all ages and abilities will be accommodated within the village where practicable; and
- the character of the village will be retained, with no more than small-scale, piecemeal development or replacement, without encroaching onto the surrounding countryside.

Over the past few months, the Shadwell Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has been working to finalise the exact policies which will be included in the Neighbourhood Plan. Following the drop-in event at the Library on the 7 April, we will now be looking at comments from that, and any further response forms left at the Post Office, up to 22 April. The two-page form is downloadable from the website – click on Documents, then Policies Questions April 2018. We will also be considering comments we have had from Leeds City Council planners about the revised draft and adjusting things accordingly.

The next stage is to produce what is called a “pre-submission draft”. This will be available to make comments on for a period of six weeks – probably in the Autumn this year– before it is submitted to an independent Examiner to consider. That person will check that it has been properly consulted upon, locally, and conforms to existing national and local Leeds policies.

From experience of other Neighbourhood Plans, it is likely that the Examiner will suggest some modifications, and then approval of the final plan is in your hands through a local Referendum.

Our website, Shadwellneighbourhoodplan.co.uk is now kept fully up to date, and is the main record of the process, so I hope many of you will look at it occasionally, attend any further public consultations, and give your support to the final version of the Plan, when we hold the local referendum, which we hope will be in October 2019.

J Thompson.