



PRESS RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

The Future of Alton

On Friday and Saturday last week (8th and 9th September), people living in and around the town were given their latest opportunity to have their say on the how the Alton Neighbourhood Plan should be shaped and developed. Over 350 people came to the Assembly Rooms, across the two sessions, eager to see what progress had been made on the Plan since the last public engagement sessions in May.

There was plenty to see. Some options for potential areas of housing development in Alton over the next decades to 2050, as well as the Policy Areas suggested for inclusion in the Plan, were carefully set out on nearly forty display boards. These included suggestions on infrastructure improvements and climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as other topic areas which will come together in the final Plan to shape the town over the coming years to ensure it remains sustainable and retains its sense of community, whilst responding to the needs for more affordable housing and the climate emergency. Further information was available in several detailed documents including a Housing Needs Analysis and a draft Town Design Code.

The Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan team, Mike Heelis, gave hourly short presentations to explain the Plan in more detail and to emphasise the importance of public feedback. He responded to a large number of questions and suggestions, all of which have been noted, and along with the hundreds of comments written by attendees on Post-it notes, will contribute to the ongoing development and formation of the Plan, which will be subject to formal public consultation early next year.

The Plan team – all volunteers themselves – expressed their thanks to those who attended and gave up their time to provide valuable input to this important emerging Planning document.

Further information is available at <https://www.alton.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/> or by sending an email to altonneighbourhoodplan@gmail.com

ENDS

For accompanying photograph(s) and any enquiries, contact altonneighbourhoodplan@gmail.com

