



22nd May 2023

The Plan kicks off

The Assembly Rooms were buzzing on Friday and Saturday as the Alton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group held their first public engagement event. It was very successful, with more than three hundred people coming along to examine the scope and intent of the proposed new Plan. As part of the process, they were invited to write their comments on Post-It notes and stick them on the relevant policy display board in the hall. Feedback was excellent – there are literally hundreds of sticky notes and postcards for the Group now to assess. All the comments and views are to be distilled into an Evidence Base which will be used to shape and help define the new Neighbourhood Plan.

This current Neighbourhood Plan was implemented after a public referendum in 2016 and updated in 2021. For the last seven years it has protected the town from speculative development, but it will expire in November this year. That's one of the reasons why the Steering Group believe that getting a new Plan in place is so important for the town.

The Group is volunteer led; sponsored and supported by Alton Town Council. There's further information available at <https://www.alton.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/> or by sending an email to altonneighbourhoodplan@gmail.com

Their next consultation event will be held during September, when the public will be able to express views on a range of potential policies in the emerging Plan. Last weekend's event will no doubt help greatly in formulating these options.

ENDS

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