**BISHOP’S CASTLE NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2019 - 2038**

The Localism Act of 2011 gave communities more control over development in their areas through Neighbourhood Development Plans which add depth and detail to Government and County Councils’ policies & plans. The NDP must be accepted or rejected by local people in a referendum. Bishop’s Castle Town Council decided in 2018 following a Public Meeting that a NDP would give residents greater control over the future of the town, protecting its heritage, amenities and unique character and giving us a much greater say in development. The NDP enables us to decide where houses are built, to what standard and to make sure they meet local need. It can make sure that new housing areas connect with our footpaths enabling people to gain easy access to the countryside and walk into town. This plan was drawn up by a committee formed following the Public Meeting.

**A local referendum to decide whether or not the Bishop’s Castle Neighbourhood Plan should be formally adopted will be held on Thursday 2 May 2024**.

The local planning authority must ‘make’ (adopt) a neighbourhood plan as soon reasonably practicable after the Referendum is held if the vote is in favour of the plan, more than half of those voting have voted in favour of the plan. Once made and adopted the neighbourhood plan will be part of the statutory development plan and will be used in determining decisions on planning applications.

**This NDP focuses on specific policies that require local consideration:**

• Housing provision to meet identified need

• Design and the built environment, Within the Conservation Area, Outside the Conservation and Non-Designated Heritage Assets

• Local Green Spaces

• Sustainable Transport and its importance to and impact on tourism

• Housing mix

• Sustainable Construction.

**VISION 2038**

**Bishop’s Castle will be a place where:**

• All public services are protected.

• Young people have been able to remain because there is available affordable housing and thriving businesses that provide satisfying employment opportunities.

• New buildings will be well designed to reflect the local character and will be of high energy performance standards.

• The character of the medieval town will have been preserved and enhanced and it will be complemented by new development.

• Strategic development will not have added to traffic impact in the Conservation Area and town centre and have good access to the A488.

• Access by foot has been preserved and enhanced both in town and in the countryside.

• The town centre will be a people friendly place for small businesses and tourist activities to thrive and where traffic and parking will not be perceived as a problem.

• All parts of the town have good wastewater services and broadband.

**FURTHER DETAIL ON ALL OF THE ABOVE CAN BE FOUND IN THE PLAN AND APPENDICES AVAILABLE IN PRINT AT THE LIBRARY, ENTERPRISE HOUSE OR THE TOWN HALL OR ON THE WEBSITE AT:**

[**https://bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/**](https://bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/)

[**https://enterprisehouse.org.uk/bishops-castle-neighbourhood-plan/**](https://enterprisehouse.org.uk/bishops-castle-neighbourhood-plan/)

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