

**Bishop's Castle, Chirbury and Worthen and Clun Local Joint Committee
Community Action Officers Report February 2013**

Parish Plan funding

Funding is now available through Shropshire Council to help communities develop or refresh their parish plans.

Parish plans are a good way for communities to come together to review what is good and bad about living in their community, and to identify actions to maintain and improve the parish. The plans are becoming increasingly important since the Localism Act was introduced in 2011, as local councils are being asked to consult with their community and make sure funding is spent on the correct priorities. In Shropshire around 65% of parishes have a plan, and they are a good way of reviewing the priorities which feed into the Community Infrastructure Levy funding.

Shropshire Council has made funding available to help parishes start or review a plan. £100 is available to “kick start” a new plan, with a public meeting or event to get interest in starting a plan. This funding can also be used to help review a plan annually through a public meeting.

Once a group has been established a grant of up to £1,500 is available to help develop a plan. This can be spent on items such as questionnaires, analysis of data or employing a consultant to undertake a piece of work that is needed to help the plan develop. There are also a number of organisations in Shropshire that can help you develop your plan.

Plans can also be further developed into a neighbourhood plan which gives your community a greater say in the scale and type of development that takes place in your area.

Further details about neighbourhood planning are available on the link below.

<http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/planningpolicy.nsf/open/D49C58BDEF57B3AC80257ADA00554BF3>

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