

## Shropshire Local Plan Review - Question asked at Shropshire Council's Cabinet meeting held on 20th July 2020 by Cllr David Turner

### **Background**

Much Wenlock has a Neighbourhood Plan which, when 'made', was noted by Council *"that the Plan provides an excellent platform for continued active engagement and discussion on development and related issues between the Council, the Town Council, the community and the local member."* Indeed, in the draft Plan to be discussed on this agenda at 2.26 it says that the Council has always taken a positive and proactive approach to Neighbourhood Plans and has sought to work constructively with local areas to advance their aspirations.

Shropshire Council has accepted that the development in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan policies is delivering the number of new dwellings as indicated by the guideline of 130 over the Neighbourhood Plan period.

Turning to the Local Plan Review, consultation response to the scale and distribution of development for Much Wenlock indicated general support for a guideline of 150 dwellings over the plan period.

Shropshire Council's preferred single site for 80 dwellings in Much Wenlock did not meet with local support during the Winter 2018 consultation. A different proposal - for 120 dwellings on a single site - revealed as late as Spring 2020 has been subject to minimal local consultation, and has met with less support than its predecessor. This 120 dwelling proposal together with the current level of growth will, over the plan period, far exceed the growth guideline - now increased, without prior notification or consultation, to 200 dwellings.

There will be massive pressure on Much Wenlock's fragile infrastructure from this and other development in the Much Wenlock Place Plan area. This will arise from building 1,000 homes in nearby Buildwas, 80 dwellings in Cressage just down the road, and development further away that will pile further pressure on the A458 and A4169 as these roads weave through the town's conservation area.

### **Question**

Will Cabinet now agree to drop the 'preferred option' site being imposed on Much Wenlock, and instead allow the community to decide the best planning option for 150 houses through a review of their Neighbourhood Plan?