

# **PRESS RELEASE**

**Contact:** Dr Natalie Palmer, Chair

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## **LYMM RESIDENTS TURNOUT IN FORCE FOR FIRST NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PUBLIC MEETING**

What is a Neighbourhood Plan you ask? In essence, whether we like it or not, there is a national shortage of housing! Lymm, like many other villages and towns is bracing itself to expand. This is not an option, but a fact.

Warrington Borough Council's planning team will decide how much new housing, or indeed other infrastructure, Lymm should have as part of a Preferred Development Option (Local Plan). In the first iteration Lymm was allocated a housing target of 600 new houses, including 500 on controversial green belt development, over the next 20 years.

A Neighbourhood Plan will get the chance for the community to feed into the overall Local Plan and ensure the Borough Council consider the views of the residents' of Lymm. In a nutshell, the Neighbourhood Plan will act as the voice of Lymm. The group, supported by the Parish Council, will work independently to find out what people want the village to be like. In essence, we as a community can influence how any development may be undertaken in the future. To become legal planning guidance, a Neighbourhood Plan must pass a public inspection by a Planning Inspector and be supported in a village referendum. If it passes those two hurdles it becomes official policy that those wanting to build in the village will have to comply with.

The Neighbourhood Planning Group is already up and running! In fact the group's first public meeting on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October was met with a turnout of more than 600 residents, all concerned with the future of our beautiful village. Over 30 volunteers were involved in putting the event together, which was extremely well received!

The group is run entirely by volunteers who have all given their time to ensure the local community's wishes are heard when planning applications are considered. Dr Natalie Palmer, Chair of the group, said:

"We will be consulting the community over the next two to three years with a view to producing a Neighbourhood Plan. The final plan will be put to the vote by the community in a local referendum. If accepted by the community, the Neighbourhood Plan will become official council policy when decisions are made, determining whether to approve or refuse planning applications in Lymm."

The Neighbourhood Plan Group will be organising many events in the near future. It is looking for volunteers who can help gather the views of all sections of the community from every corner of the parish. The group would also like to hear from local businesses who can inform the group on the pressures facing local employers.

If you would like to offer your help, whether it is with a particular skill or with general administrative support, please contact the group through the newly launched website [www.lymmplan.org](http://www.lymmplan.org). Without the support of the community there will be no Neighbourhood Plan and the future of the village will be determined by the developers.



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