



Ross-on-Wye Neighbourhood Development Plan 2018 - 2032

Consultation Draft
November 2018



Ross-on-Wye Neighbourhood Development Plan 6-week Public Consultation underway.

The Ross-on-Wye Neighbourhood Development Plan started 6 weeks of Public Consultation on Friday 9th November. The consultation and commenting period will therefore end at midnight on Friday 21st December.

What is a Neighbourhood Development Plan?

A Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) would give our community substantial influence over future development with local-level vision for the future, objectives and planning policies. It would give Ross legally enforceable power; in a national planning hierarchy they are the third tier below National Policy and (for Herefordshire) the Local Plan of 2011.

The preparation of the NDP has been led by a steering group of local people with the support of Ross-on-Wye Town Council but the aim is to engage widely with individuals and groups in Ross to produce a Plan that will properly reflect local aspirations; so this consultation is to ensure that the Plan reflects local wishes.

What does the Plan say?

The Plan is key to shaping the future of Ross-on-Wye but is big because Ross is a large market town and because for the plan to gain its full legal status there are a number of things it must contain and some, especially the policies, have to be written in formal planning language. So the Draft contains a guide to the structure:

The Introduction (p. 8-23) sets the scene about Neighbourhood Plans generally but mostly about this plan in particular, with lots of basic facts and figures.

The Vision (p.24-25) (every Neighbourhood Plan must have one) is very important. It describes, hopefully in a very accessible way, what Ross-on-Wye could be like in 2031 if the plan is as successful as hoped.

The five main Objectives are listed on page 26. These are also required legally because they say what the plan hopes to achieve; later sections detail how that will be done.

The Policies (p.27- 75) are key. They are in five overall sections and each has one or more detailed sub-objectives. The policies are the most important part of the Neighbourhood Plan because, once the plan is fully agreed, it will then be Herefordshire Council planning officers who must take account of it in deciding if future planning applications satisfy (or not) the policies in the plan. The policies must be right for Ross and also strong enough to prevent inappropriate developments getting through (hence the formal language). *We suggest a quick skip through all the policies, then come back to look in detail at those that are of most interest to you.*

The Development Strategy and Sites section (p.76-94) is a summary of how the key objectives will be achieved, especially what new developments will happen where.

The last, Projects, section starts on page 95 and lists an array of practical projects that will be set in motion to support what is in all the earlier sections. The projects are not a formal, legal part of the Neighbourhood Plan but they can often be crucial to making it really effective.

Finally, you will notice lots of mentions of supporting evidence. That is key to justifying the policies and is available through the Ross Town Council website, or paper copies of evidence can be requested in person at the Town Council offices.

How to comment on the Plan

The full text, all supporting information and comment forms are available online at <http://www.rosstc-herefordshire.gov.uk>. For those who prefer to read paper copies and comment on paper the Plan, its Appendices and Comment Forms are available at the Ross Town Council offices, Ross Library and the Larruperz Centre.

All comments must be received by email or at the Town Council offices by midnight on December 21st.

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Colin Gray

The Town Council was deeply saddened by the sudden and untimely death in July of former mayor and serving councillor, Colin Gray. Colin was a member of the Planning and Amenities Committees, he was the town's Emergency Co-ordinator and had been a town councillor since 2011.



Homs Road Car Park

It's been a year since the last update on the Council's plans for the car park and you might have noticed there has been some development during this time. This has been mainly focused on the compound for the Sea Cadets which is now complete and provides them with the facilities they need. However there has been a lot going on behind the scenes to plan the next phase and in March this year the Local Planning Authority approved an application for a Certificate of Lawfulness. This will enable the installation of a fence to create a compound on the other side of the car park which will provide space for a yard for the Town Council. This will deliver the Council's aim of increasing the scope of operational work its staff can take on, which has become necessary due to the many assets that were transferred over the last four years.

There have unfortunately been delays though with the realisation that when the toilet blocks were erected, possibly in the 1950s, one was built across a Public Right of Way and after protracted discussions with Herefordshire Council and Balfour Beatty an application for a formal Diversion has had to be made. Now this process is underway it is hoped that before the end of the financial year the fence can be installed and work can progress on the next phase. There are still decisions to be made about whether to refurbish the existing toilet block which is in a poor state of repair as the costs might be prohibitive, other options for welfare facilities would include replacing it with a temporary modular building such as a portacabin.

The new yard will reduce the number of car parking spaces but it is hoped to retain as many as possible by reconfiguring the existing layout in some areas. Since becoming a free car park it has certainly become far busier and often during the day is full up. Many visitors coming to the town cannot quite believe in today's age there is still free car parking. The Town Council is happy to see the site being well used and recognises the benefits to people living, working and visiting our town.



**WELCOME TO HOMS ROAD
FREE CAR PARK
MAXIMUM STAY 24 HOURS**

DISCLAIMER CLAUSE:

Please note that Ross-on-Wye Town Council, as far as permissible by law, accepts no liability whatsoever in the respect of the use of this car park including, without limitation, any personal injury or loss, removal or damage to any vehicle, or other property contents, howsoever caused, except in so far as the negligence of the Council.

Ross-on-Wye Town Council

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The Amenities Committee continues to work to improve the town and its open spaces. Regular maintenance in its parks, the town cemetery and the closed churchyard is carried out. The Council has arranged for flower tubs to continue in the town centre - thanks to the Rotary Club, Ross Lions and some individual businesses. The

Committee has undertaken additional grass cutting in the Prospect this season and town council staff have also spent time tidying the borders. The Amenities budget now covers weed spraying along our roads and emptying over 50 litter bins every week.

In the **Closed Churchyard** (the area surrounding the church), the main churchyard path has been resurfaced, repairs to the boundary wall along Church Street have been completed and an unsightly evergreen shrub next to the Plague Cross has been replaced with grass.



Before



After



Work has continued in partnership with the Wye Valley AONB on the river bank. A new **information board** has been put up near the canoe launch explaining all that has been going on. Pictured with the new sign are Councillor Mayo, Chairman of the Amenities Committee, Nick Critchley, Wye Valley AONB Development Officer and Rachel Lewis, Project Officer at the Town Council.

Following repairs to the ramps in the **Skate Park**, a refurbishment of the park was completed in the summer. Pictured below left are two of the Can do Crew with Dan, Town Council Sites Operative and right, new art work by Tom Cousins.



The Committee monitors trees to ensure safety, arranging for a contractor to carry out necessary remedial work. Matt, our contractor, is seen on the river, (right) working on a collapsed willow.



The Council has appointed a **Tree Warden**, Rob Taylor, who has given his time freely to members to offer advice and support.



The **Memorial Arboretum** on Caroline Symonds Gardens has reached capacity and a new arboretum is being started on the opposite side of Wye Street.

There are also opportunities to place **memorial benches** at various locations. To advertise your community events in the town, you can apply to put **banners** on the railings at Smallbrook Gardens.

For further information on trees, benches and banners, please contact the Town Council office or check out our website.

From the Mayor

It is with great pride that I have been honoured in my mayoral year, together with my consort Marie Ward, to date, to have attended over 60 events as well as walking the 151 mile length of the Thames for my charity!



One of our first events was in the summer when we attended the Shrieval Ceremony for the High Sheriff of Herefordshire and I was pleased later to welcome John Kyrle School Council members to the Mayor's offices to discuss ways of helping Papyrus, my chosen Mayoral Charity, that seeks to prevent young suicide.

Many engagements have been civic events where we have been representing the town at venues around the county. Others have been in Ross, where we have opened or encouraged businesses on behalf of the town.

This year, the centenary of the armistice of World War I, we have been delighted to attend events sponsored by the Royal British Legion. It was incredible to see the support of the residents of Ross at the services on Remembrance Sunday at St Mary's Church which was packed to capacity, and later during the evening at the Prospect, when the beacon was lit, and, led by the Allegra Ladies' Choir, everybody present sang war time songs from World War I.

Six months in and we look forward greatly to the coming months with Christmas and my Mayor's Charity Ball at the Chase Hotel on March 23rd which is open to ALL residents of Ross. Bring your friends and purchase tickets for tables of 10.

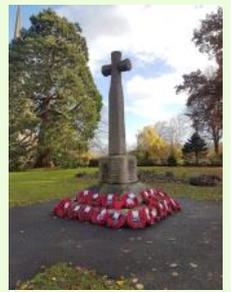
We look forward to seeing you in the town or indeed at the Chase.

With best wishes,

Cllr Harry Bramer, Mayor of Ross-on-Wye

2018 - a year to Remember

This year, the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI, more people than ever before gathered at the Prospect on Remembrance Sunday. The first wreathes were laid by Rear Admiral Philip Cox, DL and the Mayor of Ross-on-Wye, Councillor Harry Bramer, followed by many others.



Battle's Over, organised by the Committee, took place during the evening. The Mayor cut a celebration cake which was surrounded by 100 sugar poppies to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of fighting and the Reverend Prebendary Kay Garlick, DL, lit the beacon - one of 1300 around the country - at the Prospect, watched by several hundred people.

Pictured below are the Standard bearer; Graham Aplin, Chairman Herefordshire RBL; Rev Simon Tarlton, Curate of St Mary's, Ross; Rev Preb Kay Garlick, DL; Mayor's Cadet; Ms Marie Ward, Mayor's Consort; Cllr Harry Bramer, Mayor of Ross-on-Wye; and Mary Sinclair Powell, Town Crier.



Photo by The Ross Gazette

Community, Markets and Tourism Committee News



The Hot Potato Syncopators

The CM&T Committee (formerly the Events Committee) has been involved with several events since May. As part of the Wye Valley AONB River Festival, the Committee sponsored The Hot Potato Syncopators who gave an amazing performance in the gardens of the Hope & Anchor during the festival.

Bands in the Park were well attended with different bands performing over 14 mostly sunny Sunday afternoons. On 22 July, Proms in Park gave audiences six hours of music. The Committee was pleased to support the Busking Festival in August when 22 buskers played in a variety of genres around the town and under the Market House.

The Christmas Fayre was the final event of the year with over 50 stalls and the switching on of the Christmas Lights, this year by two brothers, Tom and Nic Garland, who were chosen to switch on the lights after having canoed 100 miles over four days down

the River Wye raising £1700 for Pancreatic Cancer. They are pictured with the Mayor and his Consort, Philip Dazeley, President of the Ross Rotary Club, which donated the tree.

The Committee has also supported 12 organisations to date this year with a variety of community projects through its grant scheme. Recipients include the newly formed Men's Shed with funds to help set up. This group has gone on to help in town with all sorts of projects such as refurbishing benches. Other projects

supported include a virtual fountain in the Prospect (watch this space!), children's and youth projects, the Community Garden and the Christmas Carnival. If you have a project that would benefit from a grant, you need to apply by 8th January 2019. Full details are on the website.

The Thursday market continues to thrive and consideration is currently being given to how the Saturday market might be developed. Look out for Vintage Markets in the spring, to complement the Ross Tourism Association's successful Vintage Trail around the town.



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Councillor Surgeries

A councillor is in attendance at Ross Library on Saturdays between 10 and 11am for residents to drop in. Alternatively, all councillors can be contacted by phone or email.

Emergency Co-ordinator

The Council has appointed Cllr Daniel Lister as Parish Resilience Officer. He can be contacted in an emergency (e.g. flooding) on **07557 658442**.

New Faces at the Council

Following the resignation of Craig Morgan and the untimely death of Colin Gray, the council has welcomed two new members, Councillor Paul Symonds and Councillor Anne Taylor, both in the East Ward.

Paul writes: I've had the privilege of living in Ross East since 1999 and am passionate about the town. I want to use my knowledge from 30 years running services for other councils to help control Town Council spending and get Ross a fair deal from the County and its contractors. Party politics should not be allowed to get in the way of making sure Ross is the place it deserves to be.



**The Corn Exchange
is the home of**

Ross-on-Wye Town Council

**The Office is normally open
Monday to Friday,
9.30am - 1.00pm**

Town Clerk, Mrs Sarah Robson FSLCC

Project Officer, Mrs Rachel Lewis

**Administrative Assistant,
Mrs Joanne Skelton**

**Finance Assistant,
Miss Amy Partridge**

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Anne tells us: I was born and brought up locally and I am absolutely passionate about Ross-on-Wye. I have plenty of community experience and my aim as an independent town councillor is to encourage community spirit where all residents have a voice, feel valued and above all have pride in our amazing town.



Staff changes

Following a staffing review, the council is pleased to have appointed Alan Kings as Amenities Manager, Amy Partridge as Finance and Administration Assistant and Dan Cummings as sites operative. Former Deputy Town Clerk, Rachel Lewis, is now Project Officer, working two days a week.