

NEWS

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## Plan for the future of Ross moves forward

By Rebecca Cain



Ross-on-Wye

**A PLAN** which will earmark sites for development in Ross-on-Wye is moving forward.

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The Ross Neighbourhood Development Plan is in its early stages of development but at the town's monthly council meeting funding was approved to allow the next step.

Town councillors approved a request for £10,000 from the Town Plan Implementation Fund to assist with the process of developing the plan.

The next stage will see consultancies place bids to provide the assistant needed from experts.

By December 21 the steering group will have shortlisted their preferred bidders and on January 21 the bidders will present to the steering group.

By February 9 the purchase order will be placed with the successful bidder.

Town and county Cllr Phil Cutter, who is the chairman of Herefordshire Council planning committee, said the plan is "absolutely vital" to go forward in Ross.

He said: "If we don't, we are going to end up in Ross without a proper plan and it [building] is going to be all over the place."

The Ross-on-Wye Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group's next public meeting is on December 17 at the Larruperz Centre at 7.15pm.

How does the neighbourhood plan affect you?

The government introduced the legislation for towns and parishes to create neighbourhood plans so residents can influence decisions about new and modified buildings and facilities in their area.

Through the plan, residents can choose where they want new homes, shops and offices to be built.

Neighbourhood development plans or orders do not take effect unless there is a majority of support in a referendum of the neighbourhood.

But the plan also has to meet a number of conditions before they can be put to a community referendum and legally come into force.

Decisions on planning applications will then be made using both the Local Plan, made by Herefordshire Council, and the neighbourhood plan, and any other material considerations.

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