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NEWS

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Volunteers struggle to engage residents in future plans of Ross-on-Wye

By Rebecca Miles



Down by the riverside in Ross-on-Wye.

PEOPLE planning where potential future development can take place in Ross-on-Wye are struggling to get residents engaged in the project.

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A Neighbourhood Plan is being put together for Ross which will earmark areas suitable for homes, businesses and future development.

Once the plan is completed there will be a community referendum so it is important for the organisers to make sure residents are engaged.

Melvin Reynolds, chair of the plan steering group, said at a Ross town council meeting: "It is difficult to start with. There is a bit of scepticism. Whether it reflects the reality of not, it is in people's minds about the ability to influence processes in Herefordshire Council and central government by work we do at a local level. That means it is quite difficult to get people out of apathetic mode."

But he said they are steadily increasing community involvement through their Facebook page (Ross-on-Wye Neighbourhood Development Plan).

The group has identified issues Ross residents are facing which has enabled the consultant, Place Studio, to draft objectives that the plan could aim to achieve.

The next big event for publicity is on August 6 at the Ross carnival.

The draft plan would be prepared between October 2016 and January 2017.

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