

# ASHBY DE LA ZOUCHE TOWN COUNCIL

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Town Clerk

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Legion House  
South Street  
Ashby de la Zouch  
Leicestershire  
LE65 1BQ

11<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Dear Colleague

## **The Future of Ashby de la Zouch**

Work has now started on a Neighbourhood Plan for Ashby de la Zouch and the Town Council wants the local community to get involved. Neighbourhood Planning is a new process that is designed to enable the local community to influence the planning and development of their area by helping to decide:

- The most appropriate places for new homes, shops, offices, leisure facilities and other developments to be located;
- What type of development is needed and what it should look like;
- Which important green spaces and other areas should be protected;
- What improvements or additions to local facilities and services will be required alongside any developments.

The Town Council wants people from all parts of the local community to have a say in what goes into the plan. To launch the process a series of drop in sessions are being planned, where representatives from the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group will be present. The events will give people an opportunity to have an initial say on the future development of Ashby. From the perspective of:

- Open spaces
- Infrastructure
- Movement and transport
- Housing
- Economy
- Community

I would like to invite your organisation to send representatives to the Drop In Sessions. These are being held at the Town Council Offices, Legion House, South Street, Ashby de la Zouch, LE65 1BQ. The dates are:

- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2pm to 4:30pm
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 9:30am to 12 noon
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 6pm to 8:30pm
- Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April 10am to 12:30pm

I hope you are able to send representatives to the sessions as we do need your views and opinions so the Neighbourhood Plan really does represent the aspirations of the people who live and work in the town.

If you have any questions I can be emailed at [karedwards@ashbytowncouncil.org.uk](mailto:karedwards@ashbytowncouncil.org.uk) or ring me on the 01530 416961.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Coxon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a long, sweeping underline.

Councillor John Coxon  
Leader Ashby de la Zouch Town Council

**Press Release.**

**ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH TOWN COUNCIL**

**What do you like about living in Ashby?**

Ashby de la Zouch Town Council has started work on a Neighbourhood Plan for Ashby. To launch the process the Town Council are giving local people the opportunity to come along to Drop In sessions to give their views on the town. All comments will contribute towards the preparation of a plan for the long term vision for Ashby.

Drop in sessions are all being held at the Town Council Offices, Legion House, South Street, Ashby de la Zouch, LE65 1BQ:

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Councillor John Coxon, Leader of Ashby de la Zouch Town Council said 'The Neighbourhood Planning process is a new process that is designed to enable the local community to influence planning and development in their area. The Town Council wants to find out what people think about living in Ashby and how the town can be improved. The events will give people the opportunity to have an initial say on the future development of Ashby'.

Message Ends

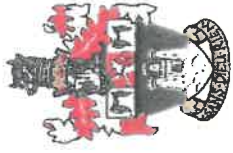
**Note to editors:**

Neighbourhood Planning is a process that is designed to enable the local community to influence planning and development for their area by helping to decide:

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Neighbourhood Plans were introduced by the 2011 Localism Act, with designated front runners starting to prepare plans in April 2012. There are five key stages to neighbourhood planning:

- Defining the Neighbourhood which will receive designation as a Neighbourhood Plan area;
- Preparing the plan;
- Independent examination;
- Community referendum;
- Legal force.



## **The Future of Ashby**

Ashby de la Zouch Town Council is seeking the views and ideas of local people on how the town should develop in the future.

A series of drop in sessions are being held at Legion House, South Street, Ashby on:

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April from 2:00 to 4:30pm  
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April from 9:30am to 12 noon  
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To find out more about the Neighbourhood Plan visit:  
<http://ashbydelazouch.leicestershireparishcouncils.org/>



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# PLANNING ASHBY'S FUTURE

Ashby de la Zouch Town Council held drop in sessions asking people what they like and don't like about Ashby and what people would want Ashby to have that it doesn't have at the moment. We would like people's views on the emerging themes and if anything is missing.

Please could you answer the following questions and return the form to the desk or to Ashby de la Zouch Town Council offices at Legion House, South Street, Ashby de la Zouch. The form can also be completed online at: <http://consultation.nwleics.gov.uk/>

Name (Optional)	
Address (street name is adequate if preferred)	

Please let us know if you agree, disagree or have no view on an issue.

Theme	Agree	Disagree	No view
Preserving Ashby's identity as a friendly historic market town at the heart of the National Forest.			
The town centre is valued but room for improvement to retail and business mix and car parking.			
Open spaces are appreciated but could be developed further and put to greater use.			
Concerns about transport infrastructure and congestion on key routes and in town centre.			
Lack of public transport.			
Where there is development it needs the right housing mix and needs to be in right locations.			
Concerns about existing infrastructure coping with additional houses especially health centre and schools.			
Need facilities for teenagers and for a growing elderly population.			

# PLANNING ASHBY'S FUTURE

Theme	Agree	Disagree	No view
Need multi-functional community facility and more community events in the town.			
Need to encourage a wider range of employment opportunities in town & utilise business parks.			
Please let us know if there are any issues you feel are missing from the list.			
Would like to be kept informed of progress regarding the Neighbourhood Plan? Yes or No			
If Yes it would be helpful if you could provide your email address (this will not be shared with any other organisations).			

**Thank you for completing our survey.**

**Please return the form to the table or if preferred to the Ashby de la Zouch Town Council Offices at Legion House, South Street, Ashby de la Zouch, LE65 1BQ by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013.**



# PLANNING ASHBY'S FUTURE

## What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

Neighbourhood Planning is a process that is designed to enable the local community to influence the planning and development for their area by helping to decide:

- The most appropriate places for new homes, shops, offices, leisure facilities and other developments to be located;
- What type of development is needed and what it should look like;
- Which important green spaces and other areas should be protected;
- What improvements or additions to local facilities and services will be required alongside any developments.

What a Neighbourhood Plan cannot do is conflict with the Local Planning Authority's Local Development Plan. For Ashby de la Zouch this is North West Leicestershire District Council's Core Strategy.

### A Neighbourhood Plan CAN...

- ✓ Be a single issue or a range of topics
- ✓ Propose more development than in the Local Plan
- ✓ Take precedence over the Local Plan on non-strategic issues
- ✓ Shape and direct future development
- ✓ Help to determine what type of development should take place
- ✓ Identify the most suitable local sites for development
- ✓ Encourage more development than proposed for the area
- ✓ Identify key areas for protection (e.g. historic buildings, open spaces)
- ✓ Set out the improvements required alongside any development
- ✓ It must be aligned to the district / borough / city council's Core Strategy / Local Plan
- ✓ It can add more detail to support the policies within the district / borough / city plan and give it more local relevance
- ✓ Only be successful at the independent examination if the formal process for preparing a Neighbourhood Plan has been adhered to
- ✓ Only be adopted if the Plan wins 50% of public support at a referendum.

### A Neighbourhood Plan CANNOT...

- ✗ Prevent any development from ever taking place in an area
- ✗ Be prepared solely by a developer or landowner
- ✗ Be in conflict with local, national, or EU policies
- ✗ Be prepared with no input or support from the local community
- ✗ Propose less growth than the district / borough / city council's Plan
- ✗ Deal with county matters, such as minerals and waste or major infrastructure
- ✗ Be in conflict with national policy or strategic policies in Local Plan
- ✗ Be used to block development
- ✗ Make policies beyond the Plan area

The Neighbourhood Planning process for Ashby de la Zouch is being led by Ashby de la Zouch Town Council, in partnership with local groups, residents and partner organisations.



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