

Newsletter 2, May 2017.

May update

Last months Farmers Market Activities - traffic and footpaths

There were two activities at the Farmer's market, one on traffic and the other on footpaths. The traffic activity asked whether people would like a relief road (the most discussed proposal has been to link Cartgate with the crossroads at Yandles garage) or not, given that things like relief roads have to be paid for out of a levy (a tax) on housebuilding and around 1500 new houses would be needed, almost doubling the size of the village.

The second activity asked people where they walked around the village and how often, It is reassuring to note that people used our footpaths all around the village. The results are on a map on the website (<http://martockplan.org.uk/wp/category/env/>). You can comment on the website.

Farmer's market tomorrow - 13th May

We will be there. Please come and see us.

The purpose of the market stall is to collect ideas and data from you and also to listen to your responses to some proposals. This week the focus will be the natural environment around Martock - we will be thinking about our landscape and views, our 'green spaces' and where are the important habitats that we should preserve and develop.

To do this we need help from everyone when they go for walks around the village.

We would like:

photographs of views

photographs and details of 'green spaces' that you value and want to conserve.

details of good wildlife habitats.

With this data we hope to build up a map of the village showing all these. This can then be used to make policy proposals about how we can preserve and enhance these places.

W cannot do this properly without your help

To find out how to help us go to the natural Environment page of the website and follow the 'surveys' links (<http://www.martockplan.org.uk/Environment/Naturalenv.html>)

Landscape sensitivity map

Tomorrow, at the Farmers's Market, we will display an interesting map drawn up that suggests where houses should NOT be built if we want to preserve our landscape

and views for future generations. You can also see it online at [http://www.martockplan.org.uk/Documents/Martock/peripheral%20landscape%20study_martock\).pdf](http://www.martockplan.org.uk/Documents/Martock/peripheral%20landscape%20study_martock).pdf). Go to page the very last page (Figure 5)

Last night's Annual Parish Meeting - New house numbers

There were some interesting statistics on new house building numbers in the report of the Planning Committee to the meeting. They show how much pressure there is on Martock by developers. In 2016/17, applications for 220 houses have been refused either by the District or by the Planning Inspectors at Appeals. The total number of houses proposed for Martock in the current SSDC Local Plan is only 230 and 221 (according to SSDC planners) have so far been either built or approved for building - with 11 years of the Plan still to run.

We are only nine new houses short of the planned number. The next house building application could be very important. It will show us what the local planners and local council mean exactly when they say that 230 houses should be built in Martock during the Plan Period, 2006 - 2028. How flexible is this number and what are the issues that make it flexible. We need to be on the inside of this discussion.

Do you want more details about this number of 230 houses and what it means?

For anyone interested in how planning policy works you can find out more about policy on Martock's housing numbers in the three documents below. All can be downloaded from the website document page <http://www.martockplan.org.uk/Documents/documents.html>

National Planning Policy Framework paragraphs 54 and 55

South Somerset Local Plan policies SS1 (page 21) and SS5 (Page 41)

Lavers Oak Planning Appeal judgement. Paragraphs 18 onwards - hard going but the key paragraphs are 41 and 42

We need to formulate a policy on what we in Martock mean by the number 230 - should it be exceeded and if so, why and by how much. Any ideas?

This month's Newsletter

I am attaching this month's newsletter - our third - which is about our natural environment. It is also available online at <http://www.martockplan.org.uk/Newsletters.html>. (Please tell me if you would prefer not to receive attachments with these update emails)

Don't forget our Facebook Page (Martock Neighbourhood Plan). And please help with the surveys - or just email photos. Photos taken with a smart phone can tell us, in their hidden data, exactly where you were when you took it and even which way you were facing - all helpful data

Best wishes

Andrew