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On Saturday 9 April your Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group held its first very successful public consultation meeting.

During 2015, Oakham Town Council approved the formation of a Steering Group, mainly comprising of residents of the community. Their role is to develop a Neighbourhood Plan in consultation with you so that you can have your say. Following our first public consultation the signs are that this is proving to be very effective.

Nearly 200 interested residents packed Victoria Hall to be given more information about Neighbourhood Plans and to provide their initial views on how the town should develop over the coming years. Areas of interest included new housing, open spaces, development of the High Street, job opportunities, medical facilities, transport and roads, leisure facilities and protection of the environment.

This really was a community event with volunteers from the Oakham Baptist Church providing an endless supply of hot drinks and home made cake. Local Guides and Rangers were also involved, keeping attendance records and helping to represent the views of younger people. The Steering Group really appreciates the support they provided and thanks them for their time and efforts.

So what happens now?

This is the start of 2-3 years of continual public consultation while the Plan is progressively developed. The Steering Group will analyse the feed back from Saturday's event and this will be taken into full consideration.

There will be a succession of similar events to Saturday's to again provide you with the opportunity to voice your views and comment on different aspects of the plan as it develops.

This is a community led Plan. Members of the Steering Group are all volunteers who, like you, live in the community. They want to see the town develop properly and carefully so that it is a buoyant and pleasant place in which to live, work and play. Do you?

We will need help from others in the community with the enthusiasm and expertise to take the plan forward. To turn this into a reality, Working Groups will be set up to look into and advise on specific areas of the Plan.

Once the Neighbourhood plan is in place it becomes a legally binding document that must be respected by planners.

If you would like to be involved, please contact

Remember, its Your Voice, Your Choice. Use it or lose it.

