



HIGHAM FERRERS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – WE'RE NEARLY THERE...

After nearly three years; we are well on the way to getting the Higham Ferrers Neighbourhood Plan into place. The concept of Neighbourhood Planning was introduced by the Government through the 2011 Localism Act in April 2012 and we (the Town Council) working with the local community, were keen to seize the opportunity that the new legislation offered to prepare our own development plan for the parish of Higham Ferrers. The process to date has been challenging and difficult in places; but ultimately rewarding.

Key milestones are as follows:

- **December 2012** – Higham Ferrers Town Council applied to East Northamptonshire Council to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area, with a view to preparing a statutory Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Parish
- **June 2013** – East Northamptonshire Council approved the designation of Higham Ferrers as a Neighbourhood Area
- **June 2013-January 2015** – Continuous close working between the Town Council and wider community, towards preparing a draft Plan
- **November 2014** – Revisions to designated Neighbourhood Area approved by East Northamptonshire Council, to reflect changes to the Parish boundary that came into force in October 2014
- **February-March 2015** – Public consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan, led by the Town Council
- **June 2015** – Higham Ferrers Neighbourhood Plan 2011-31 submitted to East Northamptonshire Council (11 June), for independent examination
- **July-August 2015** – Public consultation on the submission (2nd) version of the draft Neighbourhood Plan, led by East Northamptonshire Council
- **September 2015** – Independent examination concludes; the examiner has approved that the Higham Ferrers Neighbourhood Plan should go to a local referendum, subject to a small number of changes that he has deemed necessary to pass the examination requirements for a Neighbourhood Plan

East Northamptonshire Council, who effectively took over the Neighbourhood Plan process once we had submitted the document in June 2015, is now moving to set up a referendum about the plan later in the autumn (possibly **November 2015**). As soon as actual dates are known these will be published.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved with the Neighbourhood Plan over the past three years especially the Steering Group, without whom the Neighbourhood Plan would not be where it is now.

For further information, please contact:

- Higham Ferrers Town Council (01933 312075/ clerk@highamferrers-tc.gov.uk).