

1. Introduction

Aims and context

This Village Plan has been produced by Shirenewton Community Council to fulfil a number of purposes as set out below. It covers the area served by the Community Council, that is the villages of Shirenewton and Mynyddbach, and the villages and outlying areas of Earlswood and of Newchurch West. There is a map in Section 10 showing the boundaries of the relevant area.

Firstly, the Plan updates previous plans to provide a snapshot of the Community area as it exists in 2007. The last full plan was produced in 1978 and the community has changed quite significantly since then. Statistics are provided throughout this Plan in order to provide illustrations of the current community and its outlook.

Secondly, there are sections covering the main topics which are of concern to the population in the community. These chapters summarise why these particular issues are key aspects for this community and set out the way they may be expected to develop over the next few years. Various views and constraints are set out to illustrate the points.

Thirdly, towards the end of each relevant chapter, there is a discussion of the proposed way forward for various issues and the action plan that the Community Council intends to implement where possible. These actions have been devised to maintain the character and nature of the community where relevant and to provide sensitive improvements where appropriate. The action points take account of the views of the community from the questionnaire, as discussed below. By doing so, in some cases they provide a strong mandate for certain courses of action to be pursued. This information can then be used as an authoritative position when representing the community with outside authorities. An example of this is in the area of Planning and Housing Development.

Actions shown in *italics* are directly influenced by the Community Council; other actions will be achieved through individuals' actions and/or the Community Council influencing the correct authorities.

Hence the Plan is not just an interesting historical snapshot, but, more importantly, it is a document which draws together individual views into a way forward for the whole community.