

## Neighbourhood Plans Vanguard Bid

### **LYDBURY NORTH PARISH**

(CLG criteria as **bold headings**)

#### **Urban/rural/suburban character**

The Parish of Lydbury North is a rural parish with a population of 650. The Parish comprises the small settlements of Lydbury North, Acton, Brockton, Choulton, Plowden, and Eyton. The surrounding area is generally hilly and comprised of farmland, heath and woodland. The parish is situated in the South Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

#### **Geographical location**

Lydbury North is in the south west of the county close to the Welsh border. Located between the A489 and A488 roads, approximately 5 miles from the small market towns of Bishops Castle to the north west and 8 miles from Craven Arms to the south east.

#### **Types of local planning authority - district council, unitary authority, National Park, Broads Authority**

The local planning authority is Shropshire Council a new unitary authority formed in April 2009.

#### **The strength and experience of the parish council/community group**

Lydbury North Parish formed a Parish Plan steering Group in 2005 and produced their first Parish Plan in 2008. The Parish has a long standing history of local people working together towards shared outcomes.

Weblink to existing Parish Plan:

<http://www.lydburynorth.net/Parishplan.pdf>

The parish of Lydbury North was one of the twelve volunteer parishes that helped to develop the successful rural toolkit approach piloted in Shropshire in 2010. The parish council was keen to use the opportunity of taking part in the toolkit events in order to:

- a) arrive at up to date evidence bases that would help inform further joint work towards local outcomes;
- b) provide timely update of the evidence and information gained through production of parish plans;
- c) help the parish councils to make reasoned decisions as to whether they wished their parishes to be put forward to Shropshire Council to become community hubs or clusters in planning policy terms; and
- c) build relationships between Shropshire Council as the new unitary authority, the parish council and the communities.

As such, the respective parish councils have already demonstrated their capability and commitment towards collaborative partnership working not only with Shropshire Council but also with their communities.

Subsequent to the successful toolkit events the Parish Council made the decision to put forward Lydbury North to become a Community Hub (in the first phase of SAMDev consultation), and in so doing will now gain community benefits that will be appropriate to their particular circumstances and help meet their particular priorities. Information about what local people regard as important in terms of activities, facilities services and infrastructure has been gained already through the toolkit events.

### **Income levels across the community**

Income data for small areas has been derived from ONS data for the former South Shropshire District. These show that income levels for residents are in line with the average for the County as a whole but less than the national average.

Although figures show an average household income per annum for Lydbury North of £31,720 weekly earnings for jobs in the parish are much lower reflecting pay levels for rural occupations and their part-time or seasonal nature.

The Index of Multiple Deprivation does not show Lydbury North as a deprived area. However this measurement often hides elements of rural deprivation such as isolation and lack of services.

### **Size and complexity of the anticipated local development order or development plan document**

The following have been taken from the Lydbury North Parish Plan as identified community needs and priorities:

- Threat of closure of the Primary School- viewed as the second most important facility after the village shop
- Speeding traffic through the villages
- Housing including housing for younger people, single people and small families and affordable housing
- Ensuring local people can afford to live here
- Safe cycle routes
- Public transport including a Saturday bus service
- Church parking
- Viability of shop/post office
- The Village Hall –there is a need for a new village hall or the existing hall need to be refurbished
- Communications including broadband, mobile phone signal, TV and radio reception
- Children’s play area
- Recycling
- Buying locally produced food
- Energy saving
- Footpaths
- Old Garage
- Litter
- Dog fouling
- Out of hours access to health services

- Further education and training opportunities
- Provision of leisure activities

It is not anticipated that the proposed Neighbourhood Plan for Lydbury North Parish would be overly complex. It is regarded as an opportunity to review and update the existing Parish Plan in the context of Shropshire's LDF and to add statutory weight to the views of the local community.

**Deliverability and timescale - the process should be ready to be got underway immediately after the grant is confirmed i.e. the neighbourhood group should be established and the group or parish council ready to proceed, and the local planning authority should have made available the required staff and resources.**

The Parish Council has a Parish Plan Steering Group which has met every year to review progress on the actions in the Parish Plan. and has also carried out work on the Parish Design Statement and Landscape Character Assessment.

They are in a strong position at this point to become vanguards, with robust local arrangements in place to refresh and review the parish plans, and community support for achieving outcomes that will sustain their communities. Community Action Team officers and planning policy officers are working with them and with their local Shropshire Councillors as part of ongoing community engagement work and as part of ensuring that the desired community benefits that these communities have already identified are referenced and used in priority setting in the Place Plans into which the parish is linked.

Parish Clerk: Bernard Edwards ([parishclerk@lydburynorth.net](mailto:parishclerk@lydburynorth.net))  
Parish Plan Steering Group:

Shropshire Council staff resources include;  
Councillor Peter Phillips (Bishops Castle ED)  
Mathew Mead Community Action Officer  
Andy Mortimer Policy Manager  
Senior Planning Policy Officer  
Development Management Officer

(all accessible via: [firstname.surname@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:firstname.surname@shropshire.gov.uk))

## Appendix 1 Extract from Bishops Castle Place Plan

### 3.1 VISION FOR LYDBURY NORTH AS A COMMUNITY HUB

The vision for Community Hubs is found in Core Strategy Policy CS4, and is as follows:

***Community Hubs will have development that helps to rebalance rural communities by providing facilities, economic development or housing for local needs that is of a scale appropriate to the settlement.  
Core Strategy Policy CS4***

### 3.2 COMMUNITY LED PLANNING IN LYDBURY NORTH

*Lydbury North Parish Plan (2008)*

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*Lydbury North Parish Council representations on the SAMDev*  
(Representation reference no SAMDEV DPD/04IOP/002399/00001)

- Lydbury North as a 'community hub'.
- Play area improved
- Facilities for young people e.g. youth club
- Improved Village Hall/community centre
- Enhanced shop
- Increased community use of the School

**Lydbury North Community Toolkit Event – 27<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

The following activities, facilities, services and infrastructure were considered to be the most important community assets by the event attendees:

Activities:

- Arts and heritage events
- Youth groups and clubs
- Arts and heritage clubs

Facilities:

- School
- Community centre/village hall
- Café/pub/restaurant

Services:

- Shops
- Post office services
- Healthcare

Infrastructure:

- Broadband speed and connectivity
- Walking and cycling networks
- Regular public transport

Full information and feedback from the Lydbury North Toolkit event is available at:

<http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/factsfigures.nsf/open/2BAB264755FCFF5F802577EC00557C76>

## Appendix 2 Lydbury North statistical information

The evidence base developed for the first phase of the Rural Toolkit exercise is in a more extensive format. Please follow the link below:

[http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/factsfigures.nsf/viewAttachments/SGAK-8BQLC4/\\$file/ShropshireRuralToolkitLydburyNorthEvidenceBase27May2010.pdf](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/factsfigures.nsf/viewAttachments/SGAK-8BQLC4/$file/ShropshireRuralToolkitLydburyNorthEvidenceBase27May2010.pdf)

## Appendix 3 Location map

