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15<sup>th</sup> January 2013

Mike Grace, Chairman  
MW Neighbourhood Plan SG  
c/o Much Wenlock Town Council  
The Corn Exchange  
Much Wenlock.  
TF13 6AE

Dear Mike

The Committee of the Much Wenlock Civic Society has been pleased to be able to consider the latest proposals for policies under the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan. We would wish to put on record our appreciation for the care taken in developing the proposals and for the preparation of relevant options for this phase of consultation. We would ideally have wished to have considerably more time at this stage to respond in detail to the overall proposals. Despite these reservations, and despite being unable to endorse all the policy proposals, the Society specifically approves the following elements in the policy proposals –

- That priority should be given to the significant and sustainable improvement of drainage, so as to alleviate the risk of further flooding, prior to approval of further development or extension of the current development boundaries.
- That the high quality natural and built environment should be protected from inappropriate development which would detract from the town's character, the tranquility of the area and the town's setting within a natural bowl.
- That "Housing Development Scenario 1" is the only scenario among the proposals which reflects the views of the people of Much Wenlock on the scale of individual developments and on the extent of local housing needs while avoiding the widely perceived risk of overdevelopment.
- That the present development boundaries of Much Wenlock Town should be respected and should not be extended during the period covered by the plan.

- That close cooperation with a single well established housing association is the most productive way of ensuring an adequate response to the perceived need for more affordable housing for rent.
- That allowing appropriate redevelopment of sites and buildings for additional housing within the current development boundaries is to be welcomed
- That all new housing developments should meet the standards proposed in the consultation documents, reducing the overall flood risk, having sufficient on-site parking, complying with the design brief and the provision of open space.
- That favourable consideration should be given to appropriate applications to convert disused quarries to productive use as employment land but only when consistent with protecting the tranquility of the AONB, the local flora and fauna and the importance of various SSSI.
- That there should be a strong commitment to protect and where possible enhance community facilities and services.
- That all policies should encourage sustainability in the widest sense.

We trust that these policies can be incorporated in a neighbourhood plan which demonstrates strong local support while complying with the Core Strategy policies of Shropshire Council and the requirements of national policy guidance as interpreted by the planning inspectorate.

Yours sincerely

Howard Horsley (Hon. Sec. , Much Wenlock Civic Society.)