

# INVITATION

**“ Have your say on the future of the Upper Marshwood Vale Parish”.**  
**Please come to a Parish Meeting and be involved in our Neighbourhood Plan.**

A detailed Parish Plan was completed for Upper Marshwood Vale in 2000. Five key recommendations have been successfully implemented, or are in the process of being rolled out :-

- **Affordable Housing - houses built and allocated;**
- **Superfast Broadband - being installed;**
- **Employment of a Lengthsman;**
- **A 30 mph speed limit for Marshwood is in place with enforcement;**
- **Oak tree planting completed in two sites:**

To build on this success and to ensure that the Upper Marshwood Vale residents get the power to determine the shape and character of this area of outstanding natural beauty, the Parish Council has agreed with West Dorset District Council, that we should be allowed to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan.

Our MP, Oliver Letwin, was closely involved with the preparation of this new neighbourhood planning initiative. The resulting Localism Act was passed in 2011; this allowed local communities, through Neighbourhood Plans, significantly more power in deciding how land gets used and the shape and character of any housing that is identified as being required. Green spaces can be protected and Eco initiatives encouraged, to ensure that there is sustainable environment. Neighbourhood Plans, as distinct from Parish Plans, will be statutory documents and be part of West Dorset District Council's development Plans - so they will have more bite!

More than 700 parishes and communities across the country are already engaged with producing a plan, and West Dorset had one of the first pilot projects. Cerne Abbas produced the first plan in the county and it has now been approved and voted for by the community.

From preliminary discussions with the Parish Council, Community Land Trust and interested residents, we have identified 8 key areas which could be addressed by the community for our plan:-

- **Local jobs** through business initiatives
- **Land availability** for these and other projects
- **Village sewage solutions**
- **Woodland and Hedgerow management** - valuable fuel source
- **Renewable energy initiatives**
- **Community facilities, services and education**
- **Future housing**
- **Ideas for the future of our villages.**

It is essential that this project is a reflection of the community's requirements and we would like to invite you to one of our first community engagement meetings, where you will have a chance to put forward your views as to what issues we should address. **The first of the open sessions will be held on the afternoon (1pm to 5pm) Friday 26th February and then all day Saturday 27th February (10.30am - 4:30 pm) in Blackdown Village Hall.**

We very much hope that you can come to one of these sessions, to let us know how you would like the community to develop over the foreseeable future, and perhaps be involved with the project team. Your contribution will be valued and it will direct the project team's efforts to producing a Neighbourhood Plan which reflects your needs.

*M D Robinson*

Mike Robinson

Chairman Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Tel 01308 868979