

Shop and car park - public meeting

A public meeting was held at the Marshwood church on the 17th of November 2018 to present the findings of the recent site options consultation, to discuss how to move forward with our Neighbourhood Plan (NP) and how we might establish a shop and a car park for the school and church.

Given the general lack of support for further housing, only two sites remained which had local support, The Dungeon and Three Counties sites. A further site, opposite the church/school, had been offered by its owner for parking but with the condition that some housing also be allowed.

District councillor Jacqui Sewell explained how a new shop for Marshwood might be established and called on people there to volunteer to form a committee to see how that might be achieved. Several people volunteered, and this initiative is now being taken forward with the Dungeon site offering a possible location, subject to agreement on a detailed plan.

A 30-space car park solution was proposed on the site opposite the school, this together with some housing, and that proposal was put to a show of hands at the meeting: there was a clear majority in favour given the potential benefit to the local community.

We thus have three sites to be examined and surveyed in detail once outline layouts have been provided by the site owners. These will be passed to the District Council for a final screening before being included in a first draft of our NP.

By Spring 2019 we hope to be able to call a further public meeting where the first draft of our NP will be presented for comment, this before we begin the formal process which will lead to a local referendum, hopefully by mid-year.