

# Volunteers wanted to help shape the future

A SMALL army of 'neighbourhood' volunteers is being recruited to help get Toynes residents talking about the future shape of their town.

The Toynes Neighbourhood Plan team want to find 16 volunteers to help drive forward a community led framework that will ultimately influence how and where development takes place within the parish.

The team has won a grant of £8,000 - part of which will be funding the training involving top specialists in neighbourhood planning, revealed co-ordinator Thea Platt.

She explained: 'We are looking for people from all walks of life, who are interested in the future of Toynes, enjoy talking to people and feel passionate about how Toynes develops in the future.'

'The volunteers who are selected will benefit from free training in community engagement methods delivered by some of the top specialists in the country.'

The training course will take place on Monday and Tuesday July 13 and 14 at a venue still to be confirmed explained Thea.

'Newly trained volunteers will then be invited to use their skills over the summer as part of a programme of workshops and events designed to gather people's views and opinions about how Toynes should develop,' she added.

'Volunteers that want to join our team will not only benefit from training, but will help make a real difference to their community - all from people over the summer will form the backbone of a plan for the town which Frances Northrop, Transition Town Toynes, Peter Rees, Vaughan Barclay, representing the voluntary sector, and

by STEVE PEACOCK

Chris Balch, professor of planning, Plymouth.

The town council also has a website dedicated to the town's neighbourhood planning, explaining that a typical plan could include:

- The development of housing, including affordable housing and bringing vacant or derelict housing back into use.

- Provision for businesses to set up or expand their premises.

- Transport and access, including issues around roads, cycling, walking and access for disabled people.

- The development of schools, places of worship, health facilities, leisure and entertainment facilities, community and youth centers and village halls.

- The restriction of certain types of development and change of use, for example to avoid too much of one type of use.
- The design of buildings.

● Protection and creation of open space, nature reserves, allotments, sports pitches, play areas, parks and gardens, and the planting of trees.

● Protection of important buildings and assets such as archaeological remains.

● Promotion of renewable energy projects, such as solar energy and wind turbines.

Thea said the Neighbourhood Plan steering group is encouraging volunteers to get in touch quickly, as places are in high demand.

She said: 'Planning should be good for everyone, not just developers, that's why we want to involve local people in making decisions about how Toynes develops in the future.'

Anyone who wants to sign up as a volunteer can contact Thea at [info@toynesneighbourhoodplan.org](mailto:info@toynesneighbourhoodplan.org), 07855 42457 or find information at [www.toynesneighbourhoodplan.org](http://www.toynesneighbourhoodplan.org).