The Government thinks that local communities should have genuine opportunities to influence the future of the places they live in.

Neighbourhood planning allows residents, employees and businesses to come together - through town and parish councils - and say where new houses, businesses and shops should be located – and what they should look like.

Our neighbourhood plan will set out development to meet the needs of our community - economically, socially and environmentally.

It will focus on development and use of land and buildings – anything that requires planning permission. It needs to be generally in line with:

- national government planning policy;
- the emerging Joint Core Strategy for Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury;
- and the Tewkesbury Borough Plan.

If it meets these requirements, then local people will be asked to vote on it in a referendum in 2014.

If the plan is approved by a majority of those voting, it will be a strong factor in all future planning decisions.

Our Winchcombe and Sudeley councillors have asked for the plan to explore all opportunities and pressures likely over the next 20 years or so – in our rapidly changing world – and to shape policies to help our town flourish.