

## Difficult decisions to make

CHARNWOOD faces some difficult decisions in deciding future directions for growth - but everyone will be given the chance to give their views on the proposals put forward.

The Draft Regional Plan has been described as a major challenge but also a great opportunity for local people to help shape the future vision of Charnwood.

Dave Hankin, Charnwood Borough Council's Director of Planning and Development, said: "The decisions we make today will have a major impact upon the quality of life enjoyed by future generations.

"All of the easy options have long since been taken up which means that we face some difficult choices in deciding future directions for growth.

"It is too much to expect that we can please everyone but the consultation on the preferred options will ensure that everyone can have a say before final decisions are made."

Cllr Hilary Fryer (pictured below), Charnwood's Cabinet member for Planning and Development, added: "Planning the future of the Borough is a major challenge but also a great opportunity to shape new communities to provide decent homes for all, provide local jobs and create pleasant places in which to make a home.

"We want local people to share in the delivery of this vision and I look forward to listening to their views and opinions through the consultation process."



**HAVE YOUR SAY:** Charnwood Borough Council's Director of Planning and Development Dave Hankin (centre standing) gives a presentation during a consultation on the regional plan, while two interested residents look at proposals (below).

# Planning for the future!

## Everything you need to know about the draft Regional Plan

people wishing to move to the area for work, which is needed to ensure continued economic prosperity.

### The Regional Debate

In November 2007, a Panel of Inspectors reported on their findings following a public examination of a draft of the Regional Plan.

At the examination, arguments were made that Loughborough's allocation should be increased to 8,000 homes in order fund public transport and road building schemes in and around the town.

The Panel's report, however, did not favour this increased

allocation at Loughborough.

But the Panel did strongly support the principle of urban concentration as the most sustainable approach to providing for future development needs.

The report does recommend an increase across the region to take account of more recent population projections and this will mean an additional 1,625 homes across the whole of Leicestershire, which may result in a modest increase over and above the 19,000 homes already directed towards Charnwood.

### Consultation on Charnwood's Core Strategy

In the coming months, Charnwood will be publishing, for consultation, the Council's preferred options for providing the additional homes and jobs, together with supporting facilities, that are needed over the next 20 years or so.

The various options that have been considered and discussed with statutory organisations and a range of other local stakeholders and how the preferred options were reached will be explained.

During the consultation period, the Council will be asking what residents think of the preferred options to help inform the Council's decisions about the most sustainable approach to development, ahead of an examination in public in 2009.

### How does this relate to other consultations?

We undertook consultation on the Council's preferred options for the Core Strategy in February 2006. All the responses we had to this consultation have been used to inform our on-going preparation of the Core Strategy.

This next consultation will only reconsider the issue of the size and location of major urban extensions to take into account the proposals in the draft Regional Plan.

### How to get involved

If you would like to find out more or get involved in the consultation being held

in the coming months you can have a look on our website [www.charnwood.gov.uk/charnwood2021](http://www.charnwood.gov.uk/charnwood2021) and sign up for email alerts or contact the Planning Policy Team on (01509) 63 2524.

Consultations events and exhibitions will be advertised locally and a full list of dates will be set out on the website.

All consultation documents and supporting information will be on the website for people to make comments on.

