**FORWARD**

Welcome to the March Town Plan Issues and Options Exhibition.

As most of you will already be aware March Town Council, as a qualifying body, is embarking on the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan, which if approved will become a statutory land use planning document, carrying significant material weight in the planning process.

We want to prepare this plan because we believe that local people should have a greater say in planning decisions within the town, and in particular, in setting the vision for its future. It is therefore vital that the Plan is prepared in partnership with our community. The March Town Plan carries the brand "March Town Plan by March Town People" and to ensure this isn’t just lip service, we need you to get involved at every key stage.

At the end of 2013 we started the process off by conducting a town wide survey, which involved circulating a detailed questionnaire to every household and business in the town, which sought your views across a wide range of planning related issues. We have had a great response and have now processed the findings and have been able to identify a number of key issues that need to be looked at in more detail.

This exhibition is intended to provide an opportunity to share the key findings of the original survey, to highlight the main issues to emerge, and to look at possible ways forward.

I am very grateful for the time you have given up in visiting the exhibition today, but if I could ask you for a little more of your time in completing a comments form and returning it by no later than **15 August 2014**. This information will help shape the work we are doing.

Cllr Kit Owen

March Town Mayor

[photo]