

Neighbourhood Planning

The story so far

**Yorkshire and the Humber RTP,
Joint Training Conference**

Localism Bill and Neighbourhood Planning

Localism Bill -

Published Dec 2010, enactment expected
January 2012

Early stages promised more powers in
planning for local councils ?

Neighbourhood Planning – an overview

- Neighbourhood Plans (NPs) will be statutory – considered in the planning process
 - Community Led Plans – eg Village Action Plans and Parish Plans are non-statutory
 - NPs provide an opportunity for CLPs to formally link to statutory spatial planning
 - Think of NPs as mini local plans operating at parish and neighbourhood
 - YIMBY not NIMBY!
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Presumption in favour of sustainable development

The Government's clear expectation is that we move to a system where the default answer to development is 'yes', except where this would compromise the key sustainable development principles set out in national planning policy



What is Neighbourhood Planning?

- Enables local communities to decide how their areas will look in the future, including: where new development should take place - shops, offices and housing; what open space should be protected; the design quality of new development.
 - Guiding and promoting new development, setting development policies and use of land
 - Neighbourhood Development Plans will strongly influence future planning application decisions in that area.
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What is Neighbourhood Planning?

- Village Design Statements and Parish Plans remain an option
 - Existing documents still vitally important
 - But not part of statutory local development plan
 - Be guided by which issues the local community wants to address.
 - Remember that NPs are not a means to simply stop development taking place
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What is Neighbourhood Planning

NPs are:

- Based on a neighbourhood - a Parish or more than one parish (or a neighbourhood in unparished areas)
 - Written by the neighbourhood (Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum), not the principal authority
 - YIMBY, not NIMBY (this is important)
 - Used as an enabling tool – to permit more and accord with the strategic policies of the local plan (the core strategy)
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Key planning changes

- Abolition of Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) and a new duty to cooperate
 - Neighbourhood planning (plans and orders, community right to build)
 - Pre application discussions.
 - National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (consolidate policy statements, circulars and guidance documents into a single Framework)
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Plan making current context

National Policy - PPS, PPG etc

Regional Policy RSS

**Local Development Framework –
core strategy, Area Action Plans,
land allocations**

**Parish/community plans (non
statutory)**

Proposed context

National Planning Policy Framework
(NPPF)

Duty to co-operate

Local Plan (core strategy and other
documents)

Neighbourhood Development
Plans and orders

presumption in favour
of sustainable
development

Local community plan
(non statutory)

LEP

Sub-regional plans?

Proposed context (2)

Some fundamentals remain – we still have a plan led system, strategic policies and Area Action Plans (among other tools)

National Planning Policy Framework and the presumption in favour of sustainable development lead the planning system

Continuing ‘conformity’ chain – local plans need to accord with the NPPF, and neighbourhood plans need to be in line with the strategic objectives of the local plan.

How is a Neighbourhood Plan prepared ?

Instigated by parish council (in parished areas) or neighbourhood forum

Plan prepared by local community –principal authority **must** provide support & advice

Extensive community engagement/consultation

NP must comply with national planning policy, local plan policy and some EU directives

Needs also to complement other strategic plans such as city region plans

How is the Neighbourhood Plan prepared ?



Local Authority Support
Local Authorities must provide support and advice to parishes or forums preparing a plan.

Legal Compliance
Neighbourhood plans must comply with a number of EU Directives (e.g. Environmental Impact Assessment, Habitats Directive) and European Court of Human Rights

Referendum
Referendum area can be wider than neighbourhood – if proposals impact on others

A Councillor's role

- “Councillors should be at the centre of neighbourhood and parish or town council discussions about new neighbourhood plans”

(Greg Clark, Decentralisation and Planning Minister, March 2011)

- explaining,
- leading,
- inspiring,
- helping



Neighbourhood plans - thoughts

What are the benefits of doing a NP?

- Gives the community some responsibility for the village's future direction – this includes change whilst preserving the things people love
 - Locally establish a housing figure
 - Identify suitable locations for housing within the area which people are happy with
 - Help the community understand the detail and practicalities of dealing with issues
 - Provide the framework for discussions between the community and land owners and/or developers on site specific proposals
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Frontrunners Scheme

- 36 successful bids by principal authorities
 - Example is Tattenhall and District NP – www.tattenhallpc.org
 - A working group – PC led
 - Devised an action plan and timetable
 - Now consulting
 - Experiences of Frontrunners eventually used in national guidance
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Frontrunners Scheme

- Winsford Town Council (Cheshire)
 - The Plan will cover a 15 year timeframe and establish a **comprehensive regeneration strategy for the town** to encourage further investment to create, amongst other things, jobs
 - A good example of how a NP should respond to community needs and aspirations
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Neighbourhood Plans - thoughts

On your tables discuss the implications of the concept of Neighbourhood Plans for local councils...

Please focus your feedback on the perceived strengths, weaknesses, opportunities & threats of this

Neighbourhood Plans - thoughts

- Lots still to iron out
 - Where does the expertise come from?
 - Will already stretched principal authorities have the resources to assist as expected
 - Will there be any funding to help?
 - Will it breathe life and interest into parishes and neighbourhoods as expected?
 - Are parishes prepared to lead?
 - What happens where a parish does not want to lead a plan but the community wants one?
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Some useful websites

- www.planninghelp.org.uk – CPRE’s site for planning issues
 - www.pas.gov.uk – Planning Advisory Service
 - www.communityplanning.net – free planning support site recognised by Government
 - www.locality.org.uk – Network for community led organisations
 - www.ruralyorkshire.org.uk – Rural Action Yorkshire site; RAY will be providing support for NPs
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