

Neighbourhood Planning

- Enable communities to take the lead in producing part of the statutory development plan for the area
- Must be used to determine planning applications in a neighbourhood area.
- Community-led framework for guiding the future development and growth of an area
- Plans relate to the use and development of land and associated social, economic and environmental issues
- Issues like housing, employment, heritage and transport

So Why do a Plan

- Influence :-
 - Protect and enhance your local area (eg high street)
 - Choose where new industries, housing, parks etc should be located
 - Protect local green spaces for future generations
 - Strong policy document for influencing decision making
 - Strong community engagement brings communities together

Producing a Neighbourhood Plan

- Submit proposed neighbourhood area to local planning authority for designation
- For town or parish councils – strong presumption NP area will be same as parish boundary
- Neighbourhood Forums – minimum of 21 people

Funding your plan

- Plans take time and cost money
- Department for Communities and Local Government – maximum of £8k – and specialist consultant support
- <http://mycommunity.org.uk/programme/neighbourhood-planning/>
- Awards for All Lottery - £10k
- Shropshire Council (once area designated) £5k
- Parish Council
- Volunteers

Duty to Support

- Once NP area designated – local planning authority (SC) required to provide advice and assistance
 - Make existing data and maps available for evidence base
 - Identify key local strategic policies from local plan
 - Advising on relevant national policies and guidance
 - Sharing information, key contacts
 - Use of venues and community engagement activities
 - Checking plan prior to formal submission
 - Provide technical support
 - Set up NP planning web page on local authority website

Evidence Base

- Review existing evidence
- Socio economic data – census etc
- Technical reports (eg retail studies)
- Transport studies and public transport data
- Mapping of local area
- Conservation area appraisals and statutory lists
- Existing parish or community plans etc.

Evidence Base contd.

New Evidence or update existing evidence at neighbourhood level

- Economic – business surveys, land values, employment needs survey etc
- Social/Community – housing condition survey, housing needs survey, audit of community facilities
- Environmental – heritage audit, conservation area appraisals
- Infrastructure – transport linkages, school capacity,
– Pedestrians etc

Community Engagement is essential

- ❖ Front Loading – engagement before commencement of plan
- ❖ Publicity and awareness raising – need to promote widely
- ❖ Local partnerships – key partners and stakeholders
- ❖ Capacity building – (education and training)
- ❖ Avoid tokenism – do not pre-empt the outcome
- ❖ Specialist advice and enabling – may need to bring in support
- ❖ Being creative – wide range of approaches
- ❖ Managing expectations – balance ambitions with realism
- ❖ Targeting – people targeting will be necessary
- ❖ Making it accessible – think about venue, timing etc.

Resources

Neighbourhood Planning Roadmap

<http://locality.org.uk/resources/neighbourhood-planning-roadmap-guide/>

Quick Guide to Neighbourhood Plans

<http://locality.org.uk/resources/quick-guide-neighbourhood-planning/>

Any Questions?

Community Enablement Officer:

Nicola.fisher@shropshire.gov.uk