



What is
Neighbourhood Planning?
How do we get started?

Neighbourhood Planning

What is it?

Neighbourhood Planning is one of the new 'rights' introduced in the Localism Act 2011. It is a way that communities can have their say on the type of development they want to see in their area. A neighbourhood plan, once adopted, will form part of the Local Development Plan.

'a right to neighbourhoods, for every neighbourhood, to insist on having a neighbourhood plan'

Greg Clark MP Minister for Decentralisation & Planning

What is a Neighbourhood?

The Localism Act assumes that, where they exist, a parish will constitute a neighbourhood. Where there is no parish (eg in urban areas) the community can agree with the Local Planning Authority what geographical area a neighbourhood covers.

Who can do a Neighbourhood Plan?

- In a parish the Town or Parish Council
- If no Town or Parish Council exists a Neighbourhood Forum needs to be formed and approved.

What is the process?

- The views of the community will be gathered through a structured and inclusive consultation process and a Neighbourhood Plan will be drafted.
- The Neighbourhood Plan will then be subject to independent examination before finally being tested in a referendum.
- Assuming the Neighbourhood Plan achieves more than a 50% yes vote in the referendum it is adopted by the Local Planning Authority as part of the Local Development Plan.

The outcome is that future planning applications will then be considered in accordance with the policies specified in the Neighbourhood Plan.

What support can Town, Parish Councils or Neighbourhood Forums expect?

- The Local Planning Authority will provide support for developing a Neighbourhood Plan.

'There is a duty on local authorities to cooperate with the process of producing a neighbourhood plan, they have to cooperate'

Greg Clark MP

- The Local Planning Authority appoint and pay for the independent examiner
- The Local Planning Authority arrange and pay for the referendum

Who is Catalyst?

Catalyst is the in-house consultancy service provided by the Community Council of Devon. Our customers can be confident that they are drawing on the experience and good standing that our 50 year track record as a professional charity and leading specialist in rural development has given us.

How we can help with Neighbourhood Planning.

- Through our long standing work on Parish Plans and Town Plans we have extensive experience of effective community consultation which will be essential for Neighbourhood Planning
- As a trusted, independent organisation we recognise the needs and aspirations of communities and Local Planning Authorities and can offer unbiased support
- We are up to date in our knowledge and understanding of the Localism Act, the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations and the National Planning Policy Framework.
- Where necessary we will engage the support of specialist planners in order to address specific issues.
- Our close linkages with the Devon Association of Local Councils gives us a good understanding of the issues and concerns of Parish and Town Councils in taking on this new responsibility.

Catalyst: on brief on budget on time!

What others have said about us

"Just wanted to say a huge "thank you" for your help with the Public Consultation last Wednesday."

"Just wanted to let you know that you are a really good and interesting speaker, very skilled, clear and concise."

"Thank you very much for coming to our steering committee. It was reassuring to know that we are on the right lines! The discussion on questionnaires got us thinking more closely about our next stage."

"I am writing to thank you for your great contribution to the meeting last Wednesday. I have received a lot of positive feedback about the meeting."

Do you have any questions about Neighbourhood Planning?

- What is involved?
- How does it relate to Parish and Town Plans?
- What are Neighbourhood Development Plans, Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders?
- How do you get started?

Are doing a Neighbourhood Plan and want to discuss how we can support you with:

- Developing a Project Plan?
- Looking at budgets?
- Undertaking Community Consultation?
- Sustainability Appraisals?
- Drafting your Neighbourhood Plan?



Contact our Neighbourhood Planning team

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This document is available in large print and alternative formats upon request. Please call 01392 248919



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