

## WELCOME TO NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

Neighbourhood Planning is a vital part of the Government's reforms to help local communities play a much stronger role in shaping the areas in which they live and work. Neighbourhood Planning is an extremely flexible tool and can work differently in different areas.

We have been working with areas across the country and have been encouraging groups to share their experiences.

There are some questions that frequently pop up. This note answers these, and gives some links to useful information.

### What is Neighbourhood Planning?

Neighbourhood planning is the opportunity for communities to set planning policies for the future development of their neighbourhood.

Here is a 'Quick Guide' to what you can do:

[http://planning.communityknowledgehub.org.uk/sites/planning.communityknowledgehub.org.uk/files/quick\\_guide.pdf](http://planning.communityknowledgehub.org.uk/sites/planning.communityknowledgehub.org.uk/files/quick_guide.pdf)

Neighbourhood Planning was introduced by the Localism Act 2011,

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/part/6/chapter/3/enacted>

The General Regulations for neighbourhood planning can be found here:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/637/contents/made>

The National Planning Policy Framework sets out government policy for the planning system as a whole. Remember: Neighbourhood Plans must have appropriate regard to national policy.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

### What is the process of producing a neighbourhood plan?

There are some set steps to produce a Neighbourhood Plan and they are set out on our web page. <https://www.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning>

There are a number of useful resources which have been developed to explain the process. Locality, for example, has produced:

- A Roadmap setting out the steps of the process, and,
- Worksheets that you may find helpful.

<http://mycommunityrights.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/Roadmap-worksheets-map-May-13.pdf>

Local authorities are responsible for appointing independent examiners with the neighbourhood forum/parish council's consent. The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors runs a panel of possible examiners. <http://bit.ly/17nHrBA>

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## What funding is available?

Communities can apply for grants of up to £7,000 from the support organisation we fund (as well as direct support from experts – see the section on support below).  
Apply here: <http://mycommunityrights.org.uk/neighbourhood-planning/>

Local authorities can claim funding of up to £30,000 per neighbourhood plan to pay for the independent examination and referendum.

Further information is available here:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/44127/Neighbourhood\\_Planning\\_Local\\_Authority\\_Funding\\_18\\_December\\_20122.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/44127/Neighbourhood_Planning_Local_Authority_Funding_18_December_20122.pdf)

## What support is available?

### LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Local authorities have a duty to support communities doing neighbourhood planning, including:

- To provide advice and assistance
- To hold an examination, and,
- To make arrangements for a referendum.

They should be your first port of call.

### SUPPORT PROGRAMME

We fund a support programme where you can:

- Apply for direct expert support and grants of up to £7,000
- Find useful case studies of other areas doing neighbourhood planning
- Find information about other Community Rights introduced by the Localism Act

Check the website <http://mycommunityrights.org.uk/neighbourhood-planning/>

### ONLINE ACTIVITY

Join the growing community online. You can network with others, find plans that have been made, share advice and experiences and use online tools to help you. Here are some links that may help you:

- Use Twitter to find others doing neighbourhood planning and talk to us [@CommunitiesUK](https://twitter.com/CommunitiesUK). Follow the conversations by searching [#neighbourhoodplanning](https://twitter.com/hashtag/neighbourhoodplanning) (you don't need an account for this)
- Join the Neighbourhood Planning group on LinkedIn: [http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=3741603&trk=myg\\_ugrp\\_ovr](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=3741603&trk=myg_ugrp_ovr)
- Use free and easy tools like Pinterest or Flickr to share your photos. Here's our collection: <http://pinterest.com/nplanning/>
- Put your area on the neighbourhood planning map: <https://sites.google.com/site/npareainfo/>
- For more advice on using social media, try this advice pack: <http://bit.ly/18l0ba1>

### BULLETIN

Read our regular bulletin:

- Sign up to our emailing list: send an email to us at [decentralisation@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:decentralisation@communities.gsi.gov.uk) with the title 'Sign me up to Notes on Neighbourhood Planning'
- Here's the archive: <http://bit.ly/YrFyUh>