

Neighbourhood Plan

Unfortunately, the seminar that Marianne and I were due to attend was cancelled due to insufficient numbers. To enable us to kick off some discussion I have referred to information available in the public domain to produce the following:

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

A Neighbourhood Plan is a community led document that is intended to define future development in the neighbourhood. It is not intended to prevent development, rather to define the how, where and when.

Through consultation with stakeholders; residents, businesses and other interested parties (eg. Environmental, utilities, authorities, support agencies etc.) the plan will establish the desired future development of the neighbourhood; the type, volume, location and look of development required to meet the needs of a growing community, for both residents and businesses, the infrastructure needed to support such development, retention and formation of open spaces and other amenities.

Who produces a Neighbourhood Plan?

A Neighbourhood Plan is put together by a forum under the instruction and ownership of the Parish Council.

How long does it take to establish a Neighbourhood plan?

Timescale will vary depending on the complexity of the plan but is likely to take between 18 & 24 months from inception to adoption. Some elements are fixed, for example, each public consultation period, of which there are two or three, must be a minimum of 6 weeks each.

How much does it cost to produce a Neighbourhood Plan?

Cost will vary depending on the complexity of the plan. The plan will be funded by the Parish Council however, the government has made funding available with basic grant funding of up to £9000 available.

Costs will be incurred at various stages of the process and will include items such as advertising, printing and promotional matter, online services, consultation fees and those associated with interaction with consultees.

Some technical consultees are available free of charge through local authorities.

What steps are involved in the production of a Neighbourhood Plan?

- Decide if a neighbourhood plan is appropriate.
- Apply to the district council to establish the physical area to be covered by the plan.
- Advertise the intention to produce a Neighbourhood Plan
- Establish the forum
- Establish the stakeholders to be consulted
- Prepare and distribute consultation documents (printed and/or online)

- Evaluate the results of consultation.
- Prepare the draft plan.
- Submit draft plan to local planning office for evaluation.
- Submit draft plan for independent approval.
- Carry out referendum of residents etc. for formal approval by majority.
- Adoption

It should be recognised that there could be a need for variation/amendment of documents at any stage which may require additional consultation.

What happens next?

Having approved the plan by a majority of those taking part in the referendum the plan will be adopted and included in the district councils local plan. Any planning applications submitted will then be considered against the neighbourhood plan while the plan remains valid. To remain valid, the plan must be reviewed every two years to ensure that it remains consistent with national planning policy. Additionally, it should be reviewed periodically to ensure it continues to reflect the wishes of the stakeholders.