Kirklees Council

Neighbourhood Planning Guidance Note 1:
An Introduction to Neighbourhood Development Plans

What are they?

Neighbourhood Developments Plans are about local communities having a greater say in shaping development and use of land in their areas in the future.

What do they do?

Your community can set out its priorities and draw up plans for the use and development of land on issues that are important to you such as:

- where new housing will go and what they should look like;
- where new businesses will go;
- a new or expanded shopping area;
- open space for recreation.

What is the value for your community?

- You have a stronger influence over aspects of land use and development in your area.
- It gives you greater responsibility in planning what your local area will look like in the future.
- It is not about saying no to development.

Who can write a Neighbourhood Development Plan?

Neighbourhood development plans are optional and communities can choose whether they would like to have one. In areas with a parish or town council, the parish or town council take the lead in writing the plan. In areas that do not have a parish or town council, a local group of people or existing organisations can apply to the council to become a neighbourhood forum who can then write the plan.

The key stages

There are five key stages in producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Stage 1: Defining the neighbourhood
Determine responsibility for who will be writing the plan, decide what area the plan is going to cover and get the community on board.

Stage 2: Preparing the plan
Gather together all the relevant information, decide how you want your area to look like in the future – your vision and set out policies for development and land. Check that they

conform with the Council's Local Plan, national planning policy and with the community and other stakeholders as the plan progresses.

Stage 3: Independent Check
After the plan has been prepared and consulted on, it is checked by an independent examiner external to Kirklees Council.

Stage 4: Community Referendum
The council will organise a referendum to give the community the final say on the plan. If the majority of people who vote support the plan, the council must bring it into force.

Stage 5: Legal Force
Once the Neighbourhood Development Plan is in force, it must be taken into account when proposals for development are considered.

What is this likely to cost the parish council or neighbourhood forum?

Government estimates costs at around £40,000 and perhaps more.

What are the alternatives?

There are a number of different ways you can plan your local area depending on what you want to do. These include:

- working with the council in preparing planning policy documents which will supplement the policies and assist the delivery of the Local Plan;
- community/parish plans set out local needs and actions to address those needs;
- village and town design statements which focus on design and the identity of a place, often described as local distinctiveness;
- landscape character assessments describe what the landscape looks like and can help to decide policies in local plans.

What to do next?

If you are interested in planning the future of your local area, contact the Planning Policy Group to discuss your ideas and the way forward for your community. They will ensure your interest is registered and direct you to most relevant person in council to speak to.

Contact the Planning Policy Group

Tel: 01484 221627

Email: local.development@kirklees.gov.uk

Planning Policy Group
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