

# Presentation 1 – What is Neighbourhood Planning and Overview

## What is a Neighbourhood Plan, in summary?

**A Neighbourhood Plan, is better described as a Neighbourhood Development Plan.**

- It is (eventually) a document which sets out key policies and aims for a specific area usually a Parish.
- It is created by community involvement and using evidence
- It has a much greater focus on the specific area than the Council's own Local Plan and can therefore be much more relevant and specific to the 'needs' of an area
- Is it developed through a Neighbourhood Plan Process
- Whist it cannot stop development, it can manage and influence planning applications and the 'Planning' of the area in which they live and work.

## What general things can be considered ?

The neighbourhood plan, can include policies and aims relating to all types of development and community needs, such as:



## **What Status Does it have?**

- The neighbourhood plan, is not a community plan which just has community aspirations
- It has to be taken into account as part of planning application decision
- It will be an adopted document used to inform the decisions made on planning applications

**... However, it must go through a process and meet certain standards. Only certain things can be included in a NP.**

## However...

It cannot be used to stop development

Must comply with:

- European Directives/legislation
- National Legislation (Planning & Other)
- National & Local Planning Policy (Strategic Policies Only)
  
- **Cannot** propose lower levels of growth, housing etc
- But can help inform, direct and shape development
- Should be community led and evidence based
- Subject to independent examination & referendum



## Is this not a community Plan?

- **Neighbourhood Development Plan** – community led and evidence based statutory plan focused on development, land use, facilities, planning policies, deliver spatial elements – This is an adopted and robust document that is used for decision taking.
- **Community or Parish Plan** –community led evidence based non-statutory plan setting out vision for parish, identifies local issues/needs, commits partners to an action plan to deliver. Flexible process, no need for examination or referendum. As an evidence document, it is a material consideration but not as strong as a NP

# Public and People Involvement

Establish a steering group

Develop a communication strategy

Community Participation and Consultation

Must engage with the community  
and other stakeholders such as;

residents

businesses

interest groups

## **Working Group/Parish Council Role:**

- Neighbourhood Plan led by the Parish Council
- Supported by Working Group and Project Officer
- Parish/Town Council has formal power and responsibility for preparation, it is the accountable body
- Must involve and engage the community
- Decision making
- Liaise with other bodies
- Actively deliver (seeking funding, working with partners etc.)



## **South Norfolk Council Role**

A legal duty to support

- Assist with:
  - Engagement with community, agency and other bodies
  - preparation of materials and documents
  - writing the plan
- Technical, policy and legal guidance
- Advise if think will not pass examination
- Statutory duties (consultation on Neighbourhood area, organise & fund examination and referendum)

**It is your project and your plan**

# When do we Consult?

Identify issues

Refine objectives

Initial consultation

Refine issues and develop policy options

Check against the basic conditions

SEA Screening opinion

Consult on issues and options

Then is submitted to Council and then the Inspector  
and Referendum Vote

## **Typical Evidence Used:**

**Demographic** – who lives here? current and trends

**Socio-economic** – who works? where? & at what?

**Environmental issues** – flooding, air quality

**Designations** - heritage, landscape, wildlife

**Transport** – services, capacity, usage

**Infrastructure** – capacity, fitness for purpose, need

**Housing stock** - type, tenure, condition, need

**Land uses** – potential development sites

- Existing evidence, Office for National Stat's, Council existing evidence and plans
- Questionnaires/Community Engagement
- Other Research
- Specialist Reports

## Key Messages

- **Can manage and influence** the way in which Poringland is developed and what our Community Priorities are
- Any type of Community or Development consideration can be taken into account
- Can be a **real focus** on what makes **Poringland special**, what do we want to improve, what do we want to protect, how do we want to see new development
- It is not just an ambition document, it will be an **adopted development plan document** which has to be taken into account as part of Planning Application decision making

## Key Messages Continued

- It takes **priority over the Council's own Local Plan Policies** in relation to **decision making**
- It has to **comply with the Council and National strategic policies** (Housing and Growth is needed and Poringland is a Service Centre) and with legislation requirements
- It is **community and evidence led**, meaning it is informed by people and evidence
- A Neighbourhood Plan is a **powerful document** which is for the community to get involved and have **their say**