

## Neighbourhood Planning - A guide for communities

The Government is introducing new legislation called the 'Localism Bill'.

One part of this bill proposes change to the planning system and aims to give more power to communities, so they that get a bigger say in how their local areas are developed; the Government call this 'Neighbourhood Planning'.

The Bill is not yet law and may be subject to change, but many of its ideas are already being discussed by local people so we wanted to offer you a guide to what the Bill says. Further detail and clarification is expected to come as the bill is debated in Parliament.

The current system for Planning remains in place until the Bill comes into force, which is likely to be in 2012.

The Localism Bill proposes to offer more power and say for local people in regard to Planning matters, however the current draft of the bill does contain some important requirements. It is important that these are appreciated before you consider making any proposals.

- Neighbourhood areas will need to be formally designated by the council through an application process;
- Only a parish council or a designated 'Neighbourhood Forum' will be able to prepare a Neighbourhood Development Plan or Neighbourhood Development Order.
- A Neighbourhood Forum will need to be designated by the council through an application process and certain criteria regarding membership and aims of the forum will need to be met.
- There can be only one designated Neighbourhood Forum per designated neighbourhood area.
- A Neighbourhood Development Plan can set proposals for the development and use of land within the designated neighbourhood area, but cannot give planning permission.
- A Neighbourhood Development Plan can promote *more* but not *less* development than the city-wide local development plan.

## Appendix 1

- By preparing a Neighbourhood Development Order, parish councils or Neighbourhood Forums will be able to grant full or outline planning permission in advance for site specific development or specific types of development.
- Provided a neighbourhood development plan or order is in line with national planning policy, with the local development plan, and with other legal requirements, local people will be able to vote on it in a referendum. If the plan or order is approved by a majority, then the council will bring it into force.
- Neighbourhood Plans and Development Orders will sit alongside the existing framework of planning documents prepared by the council
- The council will help prepare the plans and orders by providing technical advice and guidance but it is not required to provide financial assistance;
- The Government will fund sources of help and advice for communities.



## How is the Neighbourhood Plan prepared ?

