



Neighbourhood planning

From determining the locations of shops and homes to setting standards of design, the Government is putting citizens in the driving seat of planning.

Neighbourhood planning is a new way for communities to decide the future of the place where they live.

The Government wants to introduce the right to do neighbourhood planning through the Localism Bill. The Localism Bill is being debated by Parliament at the moment.

How can I use neighbourhood planning?

If the Bill becomes law, you will be able to work with your community and use a neighbourhood plan to create a vision of how your area should grow and what it should look like. It can be used to:

- choose where new homes, shops and offices should be built
- have a say on what those new buildings should look like; and
- grant planning permission for the new buildings communities want to see go ahead

Where do I start?

- The first step in preparing a neighbourhood plan is to think about the sort of development that you want to see in your neighbourhood. It will be crucial to have the input of your community and to talk to your neighbours when you are developing your ideas to make sure it is what people want. You might also want to talk to community groups and your local council who will be able to provide helpful advice on neighbourhood planning.

- It is essential that your plan has the support of the people in the local neighbourhood – a referendum will be held to give everyone in the community the opportunity to have their say. Your local council will be able to help you throughout the process as well as providing helpful guidance to ensure your ideas for the area are achievable.
- Proposals will need to be put forward by your parish or town council. If you don't have a local town or parish council, you will need to join an existing community group or form a new community group that is set up to take forward neighbourhood planning in the area.

Find out more

If you want to find out more about neighbourhood planning please visit:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningsystem/neighbourhoodplanningvanguards/>

If you want to contribute to the current Government consultation on neighbourhood planning you can find more information at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/planningregulationsconsultation>