Community Led Parish Plans and Neighbourhood Plans

Which is the right one to choose to achieve your community’s aspirations for the future?

Neighbourhood Plans are not the only way for a community to influence how its local area develops.

There are other planning options which include:   
  Village Design Statements (VDS)   
  Community Led Planning

The table below provide a summary of the differences between the options

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|  | CLD (Parish Plans) | Neighbourhood Plans |
| Aims | To take a ‘holistic’  approach. It sets out a  vision for how the  community wants to  develop in the future  and to identify the  actions required to  achieve it. | To enable development.  To decide where and what  type of development should  happen in the local area. To  promote more development  than is set out in the Core  Strategy. |
| Scope | They can include  everything that is  relevant to the  community, including  social, economic and  environmental issues.  It can include more  than planning related  issues. | It is primarily about the use  and development of land  and buildings. |
| Status | If the CLP is  adopted as a material  consideration, it can  be used by officers in  the determination of  planning applications. | A formally adopted  neighbourhood plan carries  more weight in the decision  making process than parish  plans. It becomes  a development plan  document, forming part of  the development plan. |

CL Parish Plans

These are statements of how the community sees itself developing over the few years. It reflects the views of all sections of the community and identifies local problems and opportunities.

The aim of the Parish Plan is to identify what actions are required to achieve its future vision for the area, which group will assist with the implementation and the timeframe for realistically achieving the identified actions in its action plan. It could include any actions, ranging from addressing a lack of playground facilities to establishing a car share schemes. Parish Plans should include the monitoring of the action plan to ensure that the plan remains a ‘live document’.

A Parish Plan can help to manage change in a community and also to protect and improve their area.

Why choose to prepare a Parish Plan?

Parish Plans are ‘holistic’ and comprehensive in their scope and cover more than   
just planning issues. Due to its holistic nature the Parish Plan has the potential to   
influence a wide range of organisations and their policies and plans. This   
influencing role is particularly important and it is where a Parish Plan comes into   
its own, by identifying areas which may attract potential funding. The Parish Plan   
can be the focal point for an effective and positive role for your community in   
helping to guide proposals, manage change and address local needs through the   
formal planning process.

There are numerous benefits that can be gained by undertaking to a CLP, some of which include:

 Building a greater sense of community spirit by working towards a   
 common goal;

 Improves communication between the Parish Council and local people;

 Production of an action plan which identifies local problems and provides   
 local solutions for them;

 Helps establish better partnership working with key service providers;

Supports funding application as it is based on consultation with the community.

What is the status of a CLP?

If the Plan is adopted by a principal authority as a material consideration, it   
may be used by officers in the determination of planning applications. Whilst the   
CLP is produced by the local community, it will be assessed by a Planning   
Policy Officer to determine whether it fits into existing national and local planning   
policies. It is recommended that discussions about any CLP proposals are   
held with Planning Policy Officers and key stakeholders to establish whether any   
proposals are feasible and may be delivered. However, aspirations for future   
actions which may not be presently feasible should not be precluded.

Neighbourhood Plans

These are intended to enable development in local communities. The plans are not to be used to block development. It is important that there is a clear understanding of what neighbourhood planning is able to achieve.

A Neighbourhood Plan can …

 Decide where and what type of development should happen in the   
 neighbourhood area.

 Promote more development than is set out in the Core Strategy.

 Include policies, for example regarding design standards which take   
 precedence over existing policies in the Local Plan for the neighbourhood -  
 provided the NP policies do not conflict with the strategic policies in the Core   
 Strategy.

 Comply with national planning policies set out in the National Planning Policy   
 Framework and EU Laws.

A Neighbourhood Plan cannot …

Conflict with the strategic policies in the Core Strategy.

* Be used to prevent development that is in the Core Strategy.
* The Plan must comply with the above and it must be primarily about the use and development of land.
* A Neighbourhood Plan could include:
* The housing development, including affordable homes and bringing vacant   
   and derelict housing back into use.
* Provision for business to set up or expand their premises.
* Issues around roads, cycling, walking and disabled access.
* The development of schools, places of worship, health, leisure and   
   entertainment facilities, community and youth centres and village halls.  The design of buildings.
* Protection and creation of open space, nature reserves, allotments, sports pitches, play areas, parks and garden and tree planting.
  + - * Protection of important buildings and historic assets.
      * Promotion of renewable energy projects.

What is the status of a Neighbourhood Plan?

A formally adopted Neighbourhood Plan carries more weight in the decision   
making process than CLP. Once it is   
adopted, following a successful examination and referendum, it will become a   
‘Development Plan Document’ (DPD). There is a legal requirement to take it into   
consideration when determining planning applications. Consequently, it must be   
taken very seriously.