

THE PLANNING SYSTEM AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS

The Planning System

The planning system in the UK manages the use and development of land and buildings. The aim of the system is to save what is best of our heritage and improve the infrastructure upon which we depend. It is how we as a society strike a balance between allowing development of land and buildings to support economic development, provide the things we need (like homes, jobs, shops and transport), improve and conserve public spaces, heritage, amenities and the environment, and help to tackle climate change.

The planning system has two main parts to it:

1. **Plan Making** – setting out a plan for how an area will develop over time as a guide to future development. [L] [SEP]
2. **Managing Development** – when development is agreed through planning permission. Hampshire County Council is responsible for deciding whether a development – anything from an extension [L] [SEP] on a house to a new shopping centre – should go ahead within Hampshire. [L] [SEP] Planning involves making decisions about the future of our cities, towns and countryside and considering the sustainable needs of future communities. [L] [SEP] Decisions on planning applications are based on national planning policy guidance, the Local Plan (including the Core Strategy and other Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents) and any relevant Neighbourhood Plan.

National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework was published on 27th March 2012. The framework gives guidance to local councils in drawing up local plans and on making decisions on planning applications. It includes a presumption in favour of sustainable development.

Local Plans

Hampshire County Council must ensure that each area prepares a Local Plan which sets planning policies within the local authority area. Local plans must be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. They must be positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the National Planning Policy Framework. [L] [SEP] The Test Valley Borough Revised Local Plan DPD 2011 - 2029 contains proposed policies for determining planning applications and identifying strategic allocations for housing, employment

and other uses. This Local Plan was adopted by the Council on 27 January 2016 following examination by an appointed Planning Inspector. The policies set out in this plan will be used for decision making purposes (along with national planning guidance and any relevant neighbourhood plans). Additional information about the TVBC Local Plan is available on their website: <http://www.testvalley.gov.uk>

Neighbourhood Planning

Neighbourhood planning was introduced under the Localism Act 2011 to give members of the community a more hands-on role in the planning of their neighbourhoods.

Parish Councils or Neighbourhood Forums (community groups that are designated to take forward neighbourhood planning in areas without parishes) can now use neighbourhood planning powers to establish general planning policies for the development and use of land through the preparation of a neighbourhood plan (sometimes referred to legally as ‘neighbourhood development plans’).

The legislation, however, sets out that neighbourhood plans have to meet a number of ‘Basic Conditions’ to ensure they are legally compliant and take account of wider policy considerations. The Basic Conditions are that the Plan must:

- A. Have regard to national planning policy and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State (e.g. National Planning Policy Framework); ^[L]_{SEP}
- B. Contribute to the achievement of sustainable development; ^[L]_{SEP}
- C. Be in general conformity with strategic policies in the development plan for the local area ^[L]_{SEP} (i.e. The Test Valley Borough Revised Local Plan DPD 2011 - 2029); and ^[L]_{SEP}
- D. Be compatible with EU obligations and human rights requirements.

An examiner then checks that a neighbourhood development plan meets the conditions before it can be voted on in a local referendum. This is to make sure that referendums only take place when proposals are workable and of a decent quality.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS TO A COMMUNITY OF DEVELOPING A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN?

'Neighbourhood planning enables communities to play a much stronger role in shaping the areas in which they live and work and in supporting new development proposals. This is because, unlike the parish, village or town plans that communities may have prepared, a neighbourhood plan forms part of the development plan and sits alongside the [Local Plan](#) prepared by the local planning authority. Decisions on planning applications will be made using both the Local Plan and the neighbourhood plan, and any other material considerations.

Neighbourhood planning provides the opportunity for communities to set out a positive vision for how they want their community to develop over the next 10, 15, 20 years in ways that meet identified local need and make sense for local people. They can put in place planning policies that will help deliver that vision or grant planning permission for the development they want to see.

To help deliver their vision, communities that take a proactive approach by drawing up a neighbourhood plan and secure the consent of local people in a referendum, will benefit from 25% of the revenues from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) arising from the development that takes place in their area.'

The quote above is an extract from the Government website:

<http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/neighbourhood-planning/>

WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED TO DATE?

1. Thruxton Parish Council (TPC) decided that a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) would be appropriate and useful for the Parish.
2. The Steering Group (SG) was set up.
3. In April 2016 the SG generated a questionnaire and distributed it to ask Parishioners what they wanted for their community
4. The results were collated and fed back to the Parish in a Thruxton Times supplement and at last year's Fete.
5. A Vision that reflects the wishes of the Parish was generated, agreed by the Parish Council and fed back to the Parish in a Thruxton Times supplement.
6. Objectives were created to reflect the questionnaire responses and expand on the Vision.
7. In March draft Objectives were circulated to every house in the Parish for agreement, disagreement and/or comment.
8. The results have been collated and are being used to draft "Policies" which will form a part of the NDP.
9. The NDP format is being created by using National Planning Guidelines, best practice NDPs already adopted, TVBC guidelines, the information collected from the Parish, and the Vision and Objectives generated by the SG and confirmed by feedback from the Parish.
10. In order to be able to provide additional evidence to back up the Vision, Objectives and Policies that will form the core of the NDP, the SG have carried out other studies to relate the different areas and activities within the parish to the NDP requirements.
11. Again, for evidential reasons, the SG has looked at which areas Parishioners value as "Green Space" to help inform the Policies to be included in the NDP.
12. The purpose of today's event is to help keep the Parish informed of what the SG is doing on their behalf and to ask your opinion on which areas you think we should try to protect as Local Green Spaces. The SG have come up with some ideas and now the SG needs to know what you think.

This is all aimed at the paragraph from "What Are The Benefits To A Community Of Developing A Neighbourhood Plan?" that says:

'Neighbourhood planning provides the opportunity for communities to set out a positive vision for how they want their community to develop over the next 10, 15, 20 years in ways that meet identified local need and make sense for local people. They can put in place planning policies that will help deliver that vision or grant planning permission for the development they want to see.'

WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE?

13. Continue to inform and consult Parishioners as each phase of the process proceeds, e.g.at the Village Fete.
14. Complete the first draft of the NDP; organise, catalogue and make available the evidence base that supports it (a considerable task!); and submit it to TPC for approval.
15. Circulate the first draft NDP to the Parish for agreement, disagreement and/or comment.
16. Revise the NDP as necessary and submit the second draft to TPC for approval.
17. Formally submit the NDP to the appointed Examiner for approval (see the last paragraph of the “Neighbourhood Planning” section of “The Planning System And Neighbourhood Plans”).
18. Revise and resubmit the NDP (if necessary) until it meets the Examiner’s approval.
19. Organise a Referendum of the Parish to ask if the NDP meets their needs and can be offered to TVBC for acceptance.
20. Formally conduct a periodic review of the NDP and revise it as necessary to take account of changes in legislation or the circumstances that might affect it in the Parish and environs.