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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | CLD (Parish Plans) | Neighbourhood Plans |
| Aims | To take a ‘holistic’approach. It sets out avision for how thecommunity wants todevelop in the futureand to identify theactions required toachieve it. | To enable development.To decide where and whattype of development shouldhappen in the local area. Topromote more developmentthan is set out in the CoreStrategy. |
| Scope | They can includeeverything that isrelevant to thecommunity, includingsocial, economic andenvironmental issues.It can include morethan planning relatedissues. | It is primarily about the useand development of landand buildings. |
| Status | If the CLP isadopted as a materialconsideration, it canbe used by officers inthe determination ofplanning applications. | A formally adoptedneighbourhood plan carriesmore weight in the decisionmaking process than parishplans. It becomesa development plandocument, forming part ofthe 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.