

**Bishop's Tachbrook Parish Council Statement on Neighbourhood Planning  
Policies NP1 & NP2**

12/12/2016

Neighbourhood Plans are an important part of the NPPF. The Ministerial Foreword to the NPPF says that -

*In order to fulfil its purpose of helping achieve sustainable development, planning must not simply be about scrutiny. Planning must be a creative exercise in finding ways to enhance and improve the places in which we live our lives.*

*This should be a collective enterprise. Yet, in recent years, planning has tended to exclude, rather than to include, people and communities. In part, this has been a result of targets being imposed, and decisions taken, by bodies remote from them. Dismantling the unaccountable regional apparatus and introducing neighbourhood planning addresses this.*

*In part, people have been put off from getting involved because planning policy itself has become so elaborate and forbidding – the preserve of specialists, rather than people in communities.*

*This National Planning Policy Framework changes that. By replacing over a thousand pages of national policy with around fifty, written simply and clearly, we are allowing people and communities back into planning.*

NPPF184 & 185 reinforces this government approach to planning

*Neighbourhood planning provides a powerful set of tools for local people to ensure that they get the right types of development for their community. The ambition of the neighbourhood should be aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area. Neighbourhood plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan.*

*185. Outside these strategic elements, neighbourhood plans will be able to shape and direct sustainable development in their area. Once a neighbourhood plan has demonstrated its general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan and is brought into force, the policies it contains take precedence over existing non-strategic policies in the Local Plan for that neighbourhood, where they are in conflict. Local planning authorities should avoid duplicating planning processes for non-strategic policies where a neighbourhood plan is in preparation.*

Within the Planning Practice Guidance there are no less than 449 references to Neighbourhood Planning and how it should be integrated with Local Plans. So it would be appropriate for a Local Plan to have relevant policies setting out the way that the Local Planning Authority will

- a) encourage the preparation of Neighbourhood plans by Neighbourhoods in line with government policy and the Localism Bill

- b) provide positive support to Neighbourhoods in the preparation of their Neighbourhood plan as set out in the PPG ID41
- c) indicate that the Neighbourhood Development Plan when approved at referendum will be brought into force and form part of the statutory development plan of the District Council for developments in that Neighbourhood and that the Neighbourhood plan policies take precedence over non-strategic policies in the local Plan for that Neighbourhood. Applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with that statutory development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. (PPG 41-006). It should provide a link to Neighbourhood Plans that have been made or are in the course of examination.

The range of matters that the Neighbourhood Plan can consider are wide and include

Climate change **ID6-001** Why is it important for planning to consider climate change?

In addition to the statutory requirement to take the Framework into account in the preparation of Local Plans, there is a statutory duty on local planning authorities to include policies in their Local Plan designed to tackle climate change and its impacts. This complements the sustainable development duty on plan-makers and the expectation that **neighbourhood plans** will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. The National Planning Policy Framework emphasises that responding to climate change is central to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

Design **ID26** The importance of good design

26-014 Planning should promote cohesive and vibrant neighbourhoods

Cohesion relies on a neighbourhood having a robust structure and identity. Local and **neighbourhood plans** can set aspirations for areas considering what is already successful about them and how they could be improved. This might include movement networks, the mix of uses and tenures, the amount and position of open space and local vernacular building materials and styles.

The health, wellbeing and quality of life of those who will be using an area will be influenced by its cohesion.

Flood Risk and Coastal Change **ID7061** How should neighbourhood planning take account of flood risk?

This guidance on flood risk and coastal change will help local planning authorities in the preparation of Local Plans, and neighbourhoods in preparing **neighbourhood plans**.

The overall approach in [paragraph 100 of the National Planning Policy Framework](#) applies to neighbourhood planning.

In summary, **the qualifying bodies involved in neighbourhood planning** should:

- seek to ensure neighbourhood plans are informed by an appropriate assessment of flood risk;
- ensure policies steer development to areas of lower flood risk as far as possible;
- ensure that any development in an area at risk of flooding [would be safe](#), for its [lifetime](#) taking account of climate change impacts;
- **be able to demonstrate how flood risk to and from the plan area/ development site(s) will be managed, so that flood risk will not be increased overall, and that opportunities to reduce [flood risk](#), for example, through the use of sustainable drainage systems, are included in the plan/order.**

Health and wellbeing ID53-001 What is the role of health and wellbeing in planning?

Local planning authorities should ensure that health and wellbeing, and health infrastructure are considered in local and neighbourhood plans and in planning decision making to help ensure that local strategies to improve health and wellbeing) and the provision of the required health infrastructure (see NPPF paragraphs [seven](#), [156](#) and [162](#)) are supported and taken into account in local and neighbourhood plan making and when determining planning applications.

The range of issues that could be considered through the plan-making and decision-making processes, in respect of health and healthcare infrastructure, are listed.

Housing and economic development needs assessments ID2a-006 Can town/parish councils and designated neighbourhood forums (qualifying bodies) preparing neighbourhood plans use this guidance?

Town/parish councils and designated neighbourhood forums (qualifying bodies) preparing [neighbourhood plans](#) can use this guidance to identify specific local needs that may be relevant to a neighbourhood but any assessment at such a local level should be proportionate. Designated neighbourhood forums and parish/town councils can also refer to existing needs assessments prepared by the local planning authority as a starting point.

The neighbourhood plan should support the strategic development needs set out in [Local Plans](#), including policies on housing and economic development. The level of [housing](#) and economic development is likely to be a strategic policy.

2a-007 With whom do local planning authorities need to work?

Local planning authorities should assess their development needs working with the other local authorities in the relevant housing market area or functional economic market area in line with the [duty to cooperate](#).

Local communities, partner organisations, Local Enterprise Partnerships, businesses and business representative organisations, house builders, parish and town councils, designated neighbourhood forums preparing [neighbourhood plans](#) and housing

associations should be involved from the earliest stages of plan preparation, which includes the preparation of the evidence base in relation to development needs.

Local Plans ID12 Key Issues 002 What should a Local Plan contain?

Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 12-002-20140306

The Local Plan should make clear **what** is intended to happen in the area over the life of the plan, **where** and **when** this will occur and **how** it will be delivered.

Local Plans should recognise the contribution that **Neighbourhood Plans** can make in planning to meet development and infrastructure needs.

013 What is the relationship between the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans?

Paragraph: 013 Reference ID: 12-013-20140306

[Neighbourhood plans](#), when brought into force, become part of the statutory development plan for the area that they cover.

There are requirements for a local planning authority to [support neighbourhood planning](#). Further detail is provided in the [Neighbourhood Planning guidance](#).

Where a neighbourhood plan is brought forward before an up-to-date Local Plan is in place the local planning authority should take a proactive and positive approach, working collaboratively with a qualifying body. This could include sharing evidence and seeking to resolve any issues to ensure the draft Neighbourhood plan has the greatest chance of success at independent examination.

Where a neighbourhood plan has been made, the local planning authority should take it into account when preparing the Local Plan strategy and policies, and avoid duplicating the policies that are in the neighbourhood plan.

Natural Environment ID8 Landscape

001 How can the character of landscapes be assessed to inform plan-making and planning decisions?

One of the core principles in the National Planning Policy Framework is that planning should recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. Local plans should include strategic policies for the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment, including landscape. This includes designated landscapes but also the wider countryside.

It can help to inform, plan and manage change and may be undertaken at a scale appropriate to local and neighbourhood plan-making.

008 How should local planning authorities set about planning for biodiversity and geodiversity?

Local and neighbourhood plans and planning decisions have the potential to affect biodiversity or geodiversity outside as well as inside designated areas of importance for biodiversity or geodiversity. Local planning authorities and neighbourhood planning bodies should therefore seek opportunities to work collaboratively with other partners, including [Local Nature Partnerships](#), to develop and deliver a strategic approach to protecting and improving the natural environment based on local priorities and evidence. Equally, they should consider the opportunities that individual development proposals may provide to enhance biodiversity and contribute to wildlife and habitat connectivity in the wider area.

Neighbourhood Planning ID41 there are some 87 PPG clauses in this section. Of particular relevance to this part of the local plan is 41-003 setting out 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.

This would suggest that Policy NP2 is not wholly relevant to the Local plan as parish, village or town plans that may be more about community interaction than land use policies and would not be taken into consideration necessarily when deciding planning applications.

Neighbourhood planning can inspire local people and businesses to consider other ways to improve their neighbourhood than through the development and use of land. They may identify specific action or policies to deliver these improvements. Wider community aspirations than those relating to development and use of land can be included in a neighbourhood plan, but actions dealing with non land use matters should be clearly identifiable. For example, set out in a companion document or annex.

PPG 41-021 sets out the role that the local planning authority should play in neighbourhood planning and carry out its functions (41-022).

In summary, the local plan should have policies that include Neighbourhood Plans, but NP1 & NP2 are too vague to meet the intention of government policy and policies that address the issues in sub-paragraphs a), b) & c) on pages 1 & 2 above should replace them.