

A quick guide to Neighbourhood Plans

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

A **Neighbourhood Plan** or **Neighbourhood Development Plan** is mainly about land use and it can help your community to influence the future look of the area in which you live and/or work.

It can:

- develop a shared vision for the future development of your community
- enable a community to choose where new homes, shops, offices and any other developments should be built
- help you identify and protect green spaces important to your community
- let you influence the look of new buildings and landscaping for developments

It cannot:

- stop development

What might go in it?

- The development of all sorts of housing and bringing vacant or derelict housing back into use
- Somewhere for businesses to set up or expand their premises
- Transport and access issues – roads, cycling, walking, access for disabled people
- The development of schools, worship, health, leisure and entertainment facilities
- Community and youth centres and village halls
- The restriction of certain types of development and change of use, for example to avoid too much of one type of use
- The design of buildings
- Protection and creation of open space, nature reserves, allotments, sports pitches, play areas, parks and gardens, and the planting of trees
- Protection of important buildings and historic assets such as archaeological remains
- Promotion of renewable energy projects, such as solar energy and wind turbines

The plan:

- is a planning document
- forms part of the Planning Authority's Local Plan
- becomes part of the planning process so for the life of the plan your policies affect decisions about planning in the area your plan covers

Who produces the plan?

- In a parish it is the parish or town council who produce it but other members of the community can help – it's a lot of work

Steps to produce a plan:

1. Getting started
2. Identifying the issues – full community consultation
3. Develop a vision and objectives
4. Generate options
5. Draft your Neighbourhood Plan
6. Consultation and submission
7. Independent examination
8. Referendum and adoption

Would you like further information?

For help with planning please contact:

- **Suffolk Coastal Local Plan Team:**
Email: suffolkcoastallocalplan@eastsoffolk.gov.uk
Telephone: 01394 444557
- **Waveney Local Plan Team:**
Email: waveneylocalplan@eastsoffolk.gov.uk
Telephone: 01502 523029

For general help with setting up the committee and consultation contact:

- **East Suffolk Communities Team:**
Email: communities@eastsoffolk.gov.uk
Telephone: 01394 383789 or 01502 562111