

What is a Neighbourhood Development Plan or NDP?

An NDP is a community-led framework for guiding the future development, regeneration and conservation of an area. It is about the use and development of land and contains a vision, aims, planning policies, proposals for improving the area or providing new facilities, or allocation of key sites for specific kinds of development.

Neighbourhood Plans are a powerful tool in shaping the development of a neighbourhood.

It may deal with a wide range of social, economic and environmental issues (such as housing, employment, heritage and transport) or it may focus on one or two issues only. These may be issues that are relevant to the whole neighbourhood or just to part of the neighbourhood.

An NDP is a statutory document that will be part of the **statutory development plan for the area**, if successful at referendum.

This statutory status gives Neighbourhood Plans far more weight than some other local documents, such as parish plans, and village design statements.



A Neighbourhood Plan must comply with European and national legislation and must have appropriate regard to national policy and be in general conformity with existing local planning policy.

The timeframe for the Neighbourhood Plan will be for communities to decide, a 5, 10, 15 or 20 year plan. It usually complies with the timeframe of the Local Plan.

A Neighbourhood Plan should not promote less development than that identified in the Local Plan (such as new housing allocations). It can allow greater growth levels & can specify policies and guidance on how new development should be designed, orientated and located.

Who Should Be Involved?

- Parish & District Councillors, Elected Members District Council officers (not just planners)
- Community groups & residents
- Local Businesses
- Developers & landowners

Roles and Responsibilities

Parish Council: The body ultimately responsible for consulting on the plan and submitting it for independent examination. A wide range of community representatives should be involved in the process.

District Council: Legally 'obliged' to provide some support and advice to those bodies producing a Neighbourhood Plan. Responsible for funding the independent External Examiner and the referendum.

Steering Group: Stakeholder group who will take the NDP through the process to examination and referendum

What Do They Do?

- Consult widely and engages with the community and works with key partners and stakeholders
- Identify issues
- Gather and build an evidence base
- Test options and check for conformity with strategic policies and NPPF
- Draft objectives, policies and compile the Neighbourhood Plan ready for examination and referendum



How Long Will it Take?

Depending on how big your area is and the issues involved most NDP's take about 2 years to submission for examination. Some can take longer. After that time the District Council is responsible for final consultation, examination and referendum. This can take up to another year.

THE PROCESS OF PREPARING A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Allow about 2 years to complete the DRAFT NDP.

Please note that once your plan has been drafted there is a statutory period of up to 40 weeks for Pre submission consultation, independent examination and referendum.

Getting Established

- Designate the area
- Set up the steering grp, develop an action plan and time line, set a budget

Preparing the Plan

- Consultation
- Identify the Issues
- Develop a Vision & Objectives
- Generate Options
- Draft the Neighbourhood Plan

Bringing the Plan into Force (26 – 40 weeks)

- Pre submission consultation (statutory 6 weeks) & submission to FODDC
- Independent Examination (organised and paid for by FODDC)
- Referendum(organised and paid for by FODDC) If YES (51% or more of YES vote)

The Neighbourhood Plan is 'made' by FODDC and comes into force immediately