



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

# NOTES ON #neighbourhoodplanning

August 2014

Edition ten

## Making neighbourhood planning easier

The Government is seeking views on proposals that will make it easier for residents and businesses to come together to produce a neighbourhood plan. These proposals draw on the experience gained from over 900 neighbourhood areas which have already been designated by local authorities and are making use of their new right to produce a neighbourhood plan or Neighbourhood Development Order. The proposals are designed to speed up the process to encourage more to follow suit.

New measures include requiring local planning authorities to decide whether to designate certain neighbourhood areas within 10 weeks and removing the minimum six-week consultation period. Parish and town councils and neighbourhood forums would, however, still need to consult and win a local referendum on the final neighbourhood plan or Order.

The neighbourhood planning proposals are part of a wider *Technical consultation on planning*. DCLG would like to hear the views and experience of Notes on Neighbourhood Planning readers. You can contribute your views on neighbourhood planning through an [online survey](#) or through filling in the [response form](#).

The consultation document can be accessed on the [DCLG website](#).

## Summer of referendums

Across the summer we have seen a number of successful neighbourhood planning referendums, including the first vote on a Neighbourhood Development Order. In July alone there were 11 successful referendums, their details are below:

Barnham & Eastergate, Arun

<http://ow.ly/zQgRL>

Referendum: 02 July 2014

Felpham, Arun

<http://ow.ly/zQgRL>

Referendum: 02 July 2014

Anslow, East Staffordshire

<http://ow.ly/zQh3u>

[#neighbourhoodplanning](#)

Referendum: 03 July 2014

Uppingham, Rutland

<http://ow.ly/zQhbK>

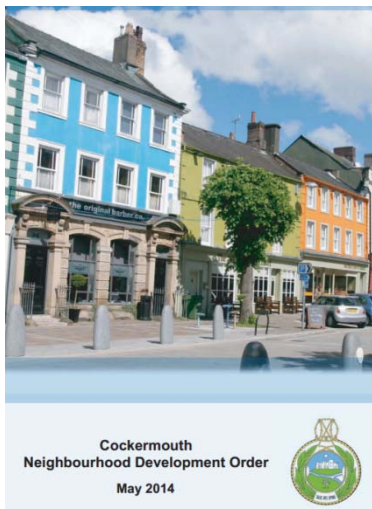
Referendum: 10 July 2014

Cockermouth, Allerdale

<http://ow.ly/zQhS>

Referendum: 17 July 2014

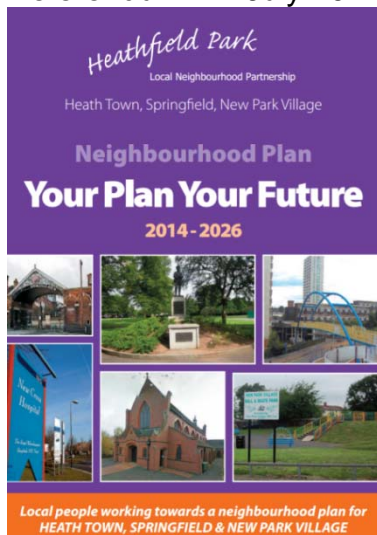
Cockermouth held the very first neighbourhood planning referendum on a Neighbourhood Development Order.



Heathfield Park, Wolverhampton City

<http://ow.ly/zQhNt>

Referendum: 17 July 2014



Tettenhall, Wolverhampton City

<http://ow.ly/zQhNt>

Referendum: 17 July 2014

[#neighbourhoodplanning](https://twitter.com/#!/neighbourhoodplanning)

Cuckfield, Mid Sussex  
<http://ow.ly/zQifm>  
Referendum: 24 July 2014

Loxwood, Chichester  
<http://ow.ly/zQjq9>  
Referendum: 24 July 2014

Winslow, Aylesbury Vale  
<http://ow.ly/zQi3Q>  
Referendum: 24 July 2014

Bembridge, Isle of Wight  
<http://ow.ly/zQjwB>  
Referendum: 24 July 2014

All 28 neighbourhood planning referendums held so far have been successful. Across England the average neighbourhood plan referendum turnout is 33% and the 'yes vote' is 88%.

The Winslow neighbourhood plan has achieved the biggest 'yes vote' (98.2%) and the joint highest turnout (59.5%) alongside Woodcote, South Oxfordshire.

The next referendum is:  
Chaddesley Corbett, Wyre Forest  
<http://ow.ly/zYyZ9>  
Referendum: 11 September 2014

In the next edition, there will be an update on forthcoming neighbourhood planning referendums as more dates are confirmed.

## **Neighbourhood planning in London 2014 conference**

On 28 May 2014, the London neighbourhood planning conference took place at Ealing Town Hall. 137 people attended the event held by West Ealing Central neighbourhood forum (WECNF) and organised by Eric Leach, Chair of the forum and a [neighbourhood planning champion](#).

It was one of the largest neighbourhood planning events ever held in England. Over 50 Neighbourhood Forums, at various stages of development, were represented.

Neighbourhood planning case studies presented covered Fortune Green and West Hampstead, South Bank and Waterloo, central Acton, central Ealing and West Ealing centre.

London specific presentations were given by Centre for London, the GLA and TfL. Imagine Places and Planning Aid England provided major authoritative direction on the various stages of creating a Neighbourhood Plan.

**#neighbourhoodplanning**

All the slide presentations from the event can be viewed at: <http://www.wecnf.org>

**Ealing Neighbour** @EalingNeighbour · May 28  
Ealing is hosting the inaugural #neighbourhoodplanning London conference today #nplondon pic.twitter.com/r5iADn8vSV



Over 100 communities have reached the draft plan stage. This represents a growing body of peer experience for communities to draw upon when shaping their own plans.

Neighbourhood planning groups are always on the lookout for ideas on how to turn their ideas and ambitions for their area into land use planning policies. One approach for scoping out a vision for your community is exploring the draft and 'made' plans that have already been created across England.

To share examples of policies and illustrate the potential for learning from similar communities grappling with comparable issues, the DCLG team have produced an infographic, see the back page.

## **Digital – Neighbourhood planner website**

A new website has been developed by Boilerhouse hosting an interactive map of neighbourhood planning activity. You can find out more and place your own plan on the map at: <http://neighbourhoodplanner.org.uk/>

## **Digital - Crowd sourced reading list**

Academics Michael Edwards (University College London) and Matthew Wargent (University of Sheffield) have started a crowd - sourced bibliography of neighbourhood planning research. A comprehensive list of online resources is also included. Find out more here: <http://ow.ly/zQe2l>

## **Community Land Trusts**

If you are thinking of including affordable homes in your neighbourhood plan you may be interested in Community Land Trusts as a means to deliver them. A Community Land Trust is a non-profit organisation that develops housing, community facilities or other assets that are made available at permanently affordable levels.

**#neighbourhoodplanning**

For more information see the National Community Land Trust Network website <http://www.communitylandtrusts.org.uk>.

## Locality – Keeping it Simple

In May, Locality released a guide to help neighbourhood planning groups think through how to produce a simple plan.

*'No-one should be put off by fear of the procedures or by thinking you need to prepare a long and complex document. It is the community's plan and needs only to deal with the planning issues that matter to you.'* – Tony Burton

You can find the *Keeping it Simple* guide here: <http://ow.ly/zYNlm>

## The DCLG Team<sup>1</sup>

Please do share this content, but remember we are not responsible for content on external sites.

Previous editions of 'Notes' can be found at: <http://ow.ly/zYNO4>

Email: [Decentralisation@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Decentralisation@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

Twitter: [@CommunitiesUK](https://twitter.com/CommunitiesUK)

---

<sup>1</sup> The team provides help to local planning authorities and qualifying bodies through a new process. This is not a substitute for your own professional or legal advice.

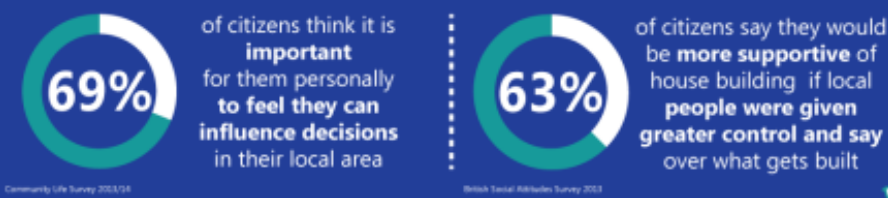


# Making Plans



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

Communities want a say on local issues ...



... they're seizing the chance to create neighbourhood plans ...



Over 100 neighbourhood planning proposals



**Cockermouth's** neighbourhood development order seeks to **reinvigorate the town** by granting planning permission for cafes, shop front redesign and outdoor seating.



Residents in **Heathfield Park** propose to **design out crime** by encouraging developments that ensure people feel safe in public areas after dark.



The **Old Market Quarter** community are using their plan to protect and enhance **open spaces** that contribute to the character of the area.



In **Cringleford**, residents voted in favour of a neighbourhood plan allocating land for approximately **1200 new homes**.



In **Fortune Green and West Hampstead**, residents are seeking to **support micro-businesses** by encouraging different sized commercial units.



In **Arundel**, the neighbourhood plan **supports the development of community assets** (including the Eagle Inn) as long as their continued viable use by local people is ensured.

Find out about over 50 neighbourhood plans that have been submitted for examination: <http://ow.ly/y811o>

... and it's making a real difference across the country.

#neighbourhoodplanning