

# Neighbourhood Planning: The Basics

Our [Guide to Community-led Planning Tools \(July 2016\)](#)<sup>1</sup> provides an overview of the many planning options available to communities across Babergh and Mid Suffolk.

**Choosing the 'right tool for the right job' depends on what you want to achieve.**

A Neighbourhood Plan (NP) could be the answer ... but ... if the issues in your community do not relate to land use and development, or if they relate solely to the provision of affordable housing, other community-led solutions may be more appropriate.

NP's should set out a **positive vision** for how an area can develop in ways that meet identified local need. They can be prepared by a single parish or group of parishes working together, and may include policies relating to specific areas, e.g. allocating site(s) for new homes, employment or community facilities, or protecting important local green space.

Unlike more traditional Parish Plan or Village Design Statements, a successful NP has statutory weight and status. When adopted, it becomes part of the districts 'development plan' and will be used to help determine relevant planning applications in the area.

**NP's CANNOT be used to stop growth or promote less development than the Local Plan.**

They must also meet the following **BASIC CONDITIONS**: \* Have regard to National Policy  
\* Be in general conformity with the strategic elements of the Local Plan \* Contribute towards sustainable development \* Be compatible with EU obligations

Neighbourhood Planning is a **regulatory process**. The key stages are set out overleaf. As the relevant LPA, we have a duty to support NP Groups, and are responsible for organising and paying for some parts of the process. However, the majority of the work and the costs of preparing a plan rests with you, the local community.

Each plan will differ. On average it will take between 2 to 3 years to complete. The question we ask of you is "**What can your NP do to add real value at the Local Context**"

Our NP webpage contains links to the all the Plans being prepared across both districts.

<http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/neighbourhood-planning/>

<http://www.babergh.gov.uk/planning/neighbourhood-planning/>

Locality's [neighbourplanning.org](http://neighbourplanning.org) website is also an excellent place to start, with numerous 'resource' guides and details of the **Financial Grant** and **Technical Support** packages that communities can access in order to help them deliver their Plan.

1. <http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Neighbourhood-Planning/Community-Led-Plan-Tools.pdf>

