East Staffordshire Borough Council
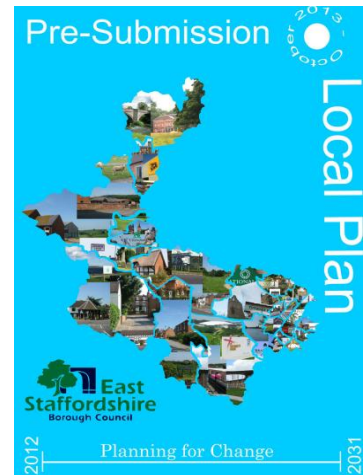
Neighbourhood Planning

Newsletter August 2014

Local Plan update

The Local Plan sets out a spatial strategy and planning policies for development in the Borough until 2031. It has now been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for independent examination. The pre-hearing meeting is on the 16th September and the hearing is due to start 6 weeks after. It is good practice for emerging Neighbourhood Plans to be in conformity with the emerging Local Plan as they will run over the same plan period.

For further information on the Local Plan or to access the Pre Submission Local Plan please visit the website link below;

http://www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk/Planning/PlanningPolicy/LocalPlanCoreStrategy/NewLocalPlan/Pages/default.aspx

Neighbourhood Plan updates

We are currently making really good progress with the 15 Neighbourhood Plans in the borough and are continually striving to complete them for adoption. On the 3rd July 2014 Anslow Neighbourhood Development Plan passed referendum with 93.95% of turnout voting in favour of the plan and 6.05% voting against. We are pleased with the 34.2% turn out and we intend to officially 'make' the plan through cabinet where it will form part of the Boroughs Development Plan.

Tatenhill Parish council have now completed the plan publicity consultation stage and they are currently in the process of selecting an independent examiner who can begin the examination in late August.

Horninglow and Eton Parish Council have submitted a copy of the plan proposal (including a map of the area to which the plan relates), a statement of community involvement and a statement of basic conditions. The plan publicity consultation is due to start on the 11th August which will take 8 weeks and end on the 6th October.

Advice on evidence gathering

It's important that your Neighbourhood Plan is based on a robust evidence base and we advise that you keep it as simple as possible as deemed appropriate for your designated area. The majority of your evidence will come from reviewing existing data. This should be easy to understand, manipulate and then draw conclusions from. After reviewing existing data you may decide you need to collect specific data yourself which isn't available to the level of detail you require, for example you could conduct an audit of the local amenities within your area.
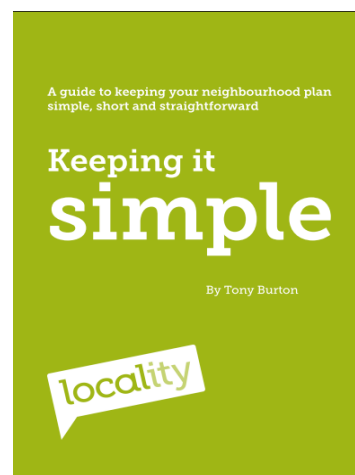

Image taken from Locality

Sources of information for your evidence base:

http://www.neighbourhoodplanner.org.uk/map - This website maps all the Neighbourhood Plans in England and their current progress. This is a useful resource for you to be able to access other Neighbourhood Plans of a similar size to yours to help you decide what evidence you should include.

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/ - This is the Office for National Statistics where you can access statistics taken from the 2011 census.

http://www.englishheritage.org.uk/professional/advice/hpg/historicenvironment/neighbourhoodplanning/ - English Heritage give their own advice on Neighbourhood Planning and the importance of regarding heritage assets within your plan.

http://www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk/Planning/PlanningPolicy/LocalPlanEvidenceBase/Pages/default.aspx - The Local Plan Evidence Base page has large amounts of evidence used for the emerging Local Plan. To sift through the large amounts of information try searching your parish name within the PDF.

The four documents you need to submit to ESBC

When you submit to East Staffordshire Borough Council you need to remember all of the 4 basic conditions.

1. **A map or statement identifying you area**
   A map would be preferable and this can be included in your plan or as a separate document.

2. **A consultation statement**
   This is all about showing how you have engaged with the local community. This needs to include;
   - Details of who and how you've consulted with people and organisations while devising the Neighbourhood Plan. (Please provide addresses so we can contact them during the Plan Publicity consultation)
   - Write a concise summary of the issues raised and how you have taken them forward to be considered within the Neighbourhood Plan.

3. **The plan**

4. **Basic condition statement**

As part of the basic condition statement you need to state how you have met the basic conditions, just a reminder these are;

- Conforming to national policy
- Contribute to achieving sustainable development
- Conform with emerging Local Plan
- Conform to EU obligations including human rights requirements

As well as this, the statement also needs to confirm;

- The draft plan is submitted by a qualifying body
- The proposal is a Neighbourhood Development Plan
- A time period that the NP will take effect as a legal planning documentation is stated (same as the emerging Local Plan)
- Confirmation that the policies do no relate to 'excluded development'
- Confirmation it only relates to the Neighbourhood Plan area
- Confirmation that there are no other Neighbourhood Development Plans in place within the area

Local Green Space designation

In your Neighbourhood Plan you are able to designate Local Green Space's. This is a way of providing special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities.

Paragraph 77 of NPPF

"The Local Green Space designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space. **The designation should only be used:**

- where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
- where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land."

Proposed regulatory changes to the Neighbourhood planning process

You may be interested in the announcement to make changes to the Neighbourhood Planning process. The proposed changes can be viewed at;
https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/technical-consultation-on-planning and you can comment on them up until the **26th September** via the web link.

External health check

If we feel it is necessary we may submit your plan to Neighbourhood Planning Independent Examiner Referral service (NPIERS) for an external health check if we don't have the recourses to carry this out ourselves. This will be done prior the Plan Publicity Consultation and we will fund the health check ourselves. The health check "is an opportunity for the draft Plan to be reviewed against the basic conditions by an NPIERs panel member." From this they may provide advice on any potential amendments required to ensure the plan meets the basic conditions. For more information on external health checks please visit the RICs website below.

http://www.rics.org/uk/join/member-accreditations-list/dispute-resolution-service/neighbourhood-planning-independent-examiner-referral-service-npiers/

English Heritage

English Heritage plays an important role in the planning system as they are the lead advisory body for the historic environment. It is important that you take the historic environment into account when you are devising your Neighbourhood Plan. For more information on the historic environment please contact Pete Boland who will be able to assist you further.

peter.boland@english-heritage.org.uk

Further useful advice

http://planning.communityknowledgehub.org.uk/ - The community knowledge hub is a good resourse for you to use throughout the development of your Neighbourhood Plan.

http://planning.communityknowledgehub.org.uk/sites/planning.communityknowledgehub.org.uk/files/keeping_it_simple_v3.pdf - Developing a Neighbourhood Plan can be daunting and we recommend you keep your Neighbourhood Plan as simple and effective as possible. Locality has published a keeping it simple guide which will help you develop your plan.

http://www.planninghelp.org.uk/improve-where-you-live/shape-your-local-area/neighbourhood-plans - This offers further advice on each stage of developing your Neighbourhood Plan.

Image taken from Locality