



Fact sheet: Neighbourhood Plans

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

A Neighbourhood Plan sets out the priorities for improving a local neighbourhood to make it better for people who live and work there. This Plan can cover a wide range of issues including crime, housing, jobs, education, the streets, parks, health, local transport and the local environment. The Plan identifies the most important issues for the neighbourhood and the actions which will be taken to improve quality of life in the area. Neighbourhood Plans are sometimes prepared for the places which need the most support in a larger town or city.

The Plan is usually prepared by local people working together with local agencies like the council, the police, health services and even environmental organisations.

A Neighbourhood Plan contains facts and figures about the issues and problems in the area. This includes the views of local people. Local people need to be consulted about the issues in the area and should be involved in drawing up the Plan.

In many places, representatives from local residents' groups, local councillors and officials from local agencies all team up together to prepare the Neighbourhood Plan.

Some things a Neighbourhood Plan can do:

Save energy:

- Encourage the local council to ask developers to build houses which are more energy-efficient
- Set up a neighbourhood group which promotes energy-saving ideas to people who live in the area

Travel wisely:

- Encourage bus companies to increase their services to specific community facilities
- Set up your own neighbourhood car-sharing scheme

Save our resources:

- Encourage the council and recycling companies to provide more recycling banks
- Explore setting up a neighbourhood composting scheme on an allotment

Shop ethically:

- Encourage local shops or nearby farmers to sell locally grown fruit and vegetables
- Promote locally grown food to neighbourhood residents and schools

Care for your area:

- Encourage the council to target grotty spots in the neighbourhood for a clean-up
- Organise a neighbourhood green up & clean up event to clear litter and improve parks



How to do a Neighbourhood Plan

The first step is to find out if your neighbourhood already has a Plan. Why not contact your local council to ask them? Or you could ask your local Town or Parish Council. To find out how to contact your local Town or Parish Council, contact the National Association of Local Councils on **020 7637 1865** or go to www.nalc.gov.uk

Find out if your group, club or society would be able to field some volunteers to help create a Neighbourhood Plan or to help put an existing Plan into action. Why not ask whether your neighbourhood's Plan is making every action count on the environment?