

What is a Neighbourhood Development Plan?

When the government introduced the Localism Act back in 2011, the intention was to devolve more power to lower levels of local government. A Neighbourhood Plan gives a community (such as a parish) a chance to say what it wants and once agreed, becomes a statutory document which has legal standing.

How does a Neighbourhood Development Plan differ from HBC's Local Plan?

A Neighbourhood Plan must be in accordance with the Local Plan but can give layers of protection not afforded by the Local Plan. A Neighbourhood Plan cannot be used to stop development but can provide guidelines on how development can be accommodated for the benefit of a community.

Is there any financial benefit with a Neighbourhood Development Plan?

If a designated area has a parish council and a Neighbourhood Development Plan, then if the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is enacted by the borough council, the parish would receive 25% of CIL money to spend as it sees fit. If the current S106 system continues, then only 15% of the sum is available and then the decision on where it is spent is left to the borough council. Pannal and Burn Bridge Parish Council (P & BBPC) has promoted obligatory adoption of CIL through the Sustainable Communities Act for ALL councils. Decision day is February 16, 2019.

Leeds Council agreed CIL in 2014. Harrogate Borough Council (HBC) still hasn't finally decided, although it now looks more probable than last year. It would fairer for everyone if every council implements CIL.

How much will a Neighbourhood Development Plan cost the parish?

We have already received a £9000 grant from Locality to develop our Neighbourhood Plan and the Steering Group, established in 2017, keeps a tight control on what is spent. We will be applying for further funding from the National Lottery. We have hired a consultant to help us conform to the rules, so they have to be paid.

What was that housing needs survey we all received?

We need to know what the people of the parish want rather than what some politicians might tell us we need. Unless we know the views from our parish, we cannot put statements into our proposed neighbourhood plan. The plan will have to pass a referendum in the parish, so it must conform to both the wishes of locals and that of HBC.

What information is needed for a Neighbourhood Development Plan?

That depends on the designated area. For areas such as Ripon or Knaresborough, then the plan is more complex than for our parish. What we believe could most affect our parish are:

- the effects of housing on our Special Landscape Areas and green spaces,
- increased traffic flow and provision of public transport and parking,
- changes in educational facilities,
- effects on local businesses and infrastructure.

That's why we have established Focus Groups to work on these subjects. We will be asking more questions of parishioners, to get a majority view.

When will this Neighbourhood Development Plan be effective?

The Neighbourhood Plan covers the next 20 years and will start once it is signed off by HBC.

What does HBC get out of this exercise?

They get £25000 from central government for each completed Neighbourhood Plan, so it's in their interests to help us and other local councils.

Why are we doing this?

This is the best opportunity we have ever had to help formulate the future of our parish. It's a one-shot deal so we must get it right. We're involving everyone, from pensioners through to our school children. It's their future we're trying to safeguard!

How can I help with the Neighbourhood Development Plan?

Would you like to:

- Join one of the focus groups?
- Distribute questionnaires?
- Help with graphic design for the documents?
- Interpret the results of questionnaires?
- Help with community interaction events?
- Assist in writing up the submission documents?

If so, please let us know by signing up today or sending an email to cathyburrel@btinternet.com