

# NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING NEWS

*For expert help and advice call Kirkwells on 01282 872570*

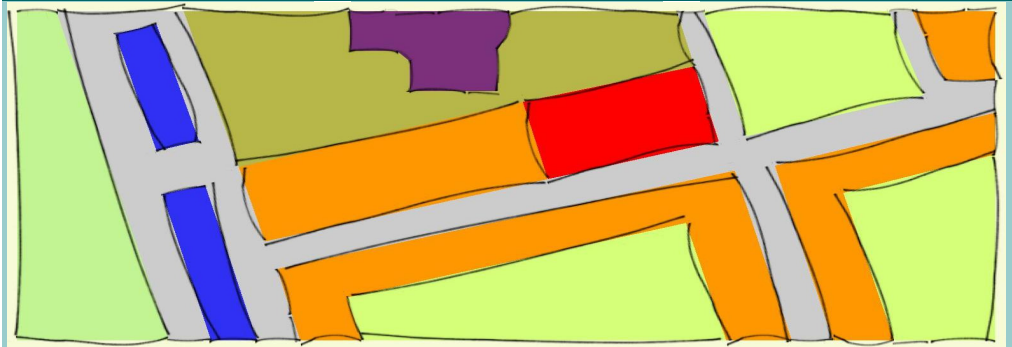
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## DESIGNATION FEVER



It has taken some time, but neighbourhood planning finally seems to have captured the public imagination.

Whether it is front-runners catching up with formal designations, or areas new to the whole concept of neighbourhood planning we seem to have a case of designation fever.

A day does not seem to go by without two

or three areas, from all parts of the country, seeking to make their formal neighbourhood planning area designation.

And some areas really have hit the ground running with 10 applications in Leeds and a similar number in East Staffordshire, where Kirkwells have been assisting frontrunners.

So may be former Planning Minister Greg Clark's of 450 plans a year in preparation will come true.

If you need advice or help with your designation for neighbourhood planning status call Kirkwells on **01282 872570** and speak to Michael or Louise.

## WIRKSWORTH SEEKS DESIGNATION

**And just to prove the point...**

Wirksworth Town Council has formally submitted a request to Derbyshire Dales Dis-

trict Council to be designated a neighbourhood area.

The move is the next step in creating a Neighbour-

hood Development Plan for the town - giving Wirksworth residents a say on how it develops.

## LAVENHAM LAUNCH



230 people attended a meeting at the village hall in Lavenham, Suffolk earlier this month to comment on the villages emerging neighbourhood plan.

Over 40 people have pledged to help with the plan to look at topics, including housing, health and wellbeing, education, economy and employment, ecology and countryside, village access and communications, conservation, amenities and social activities. The intention is then to create a questionnaire. This

will be sent to every household asking people what they would like to see done in the village. Cllr Carroll Reeve, who is taking the lead on the plan, said that it would provide 'greater influence' on issues such as planning including the style, design, quality and density of a proposed development.

*Cllr Carroll Reeve, who is taking the lead on the plan, said that it would provide 'greater influence'*

## STARTS OFF IN WAPPING...

One of the key differences we have pointed out between parished and non-parished areas is the ease with which the former can seek a neighbourhood area designation. Neighbourhood Forums having to have 21 members, written constitution etc., etc.

And some of these extra hurdles are coming to light in Tower Hamlets.

Network Wapping formally applied to Tower Hamlets council to become Wapping's Neighbourhood Planning Forum in September 2012, but The Turk's Head Charity has decided against setting up a formal planning forum after weighing up the costs and benefits

Unfortunately, for Wapping it appears that all neighbourhood planning forum proposals in Tower Hamlets are currently on hold until the procedures have been put in place to deal with them. One comment. Is this not the neighbourhood planning regulations?

Forum? Need help on neighbourhood planning call 01282 872570

## SONNING COMMON DESIGN DAYS

Sonning Common have been running “design days” and more than 100 people took part in the latest workshop at the village hall. Mixing static displays of possible developments in the village centre with potential solutions to existing problems such as congestion, the design days sought suggestions for inclusion in the village’s neighbourhood plan. Barrie Greenwood, chairman of Sonning Common Parish Council’s planning committee,

said: “Some useful information and material came from the latest day. “We were able to inform the residents about the ideas that we have in terms of the vision statement we have for the neighbourhood plan and how we perceive the village by 2026. We want to create more parking spaces and perhaps have more control over the parking behind the village hall.” The parish council has recommended refusal of two proposals to build a total of 10 houses on land

off Wood Lane. Cllr Greenwood said: “The village is very concerned that there will potentially be congestion problems if these two developments go through.” Sonning Common has been earmarked for 152 new homes to be built by 2026 under South Oxfordshire District Council’s core strategy. Looking for help with your neighbourhood plan? Call Kirkwells on 01282 872570, or email michaelwellock@kirkewells.co.uk

## STRETTON LAUNCHES NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

One dear to our hearts. Stretton, in East Staffordshire, where Kirkwells are supporting

the parish council in their neighbourhood plan preparations have organised a plan launch for 10th

of November. The launch event will run from 10am until noon at the Priory Centre.

*The Forum for Neighbourhood Planning is the latest in the support tools offered by Planning Aid.*

## FREE TRAINING IN CAMDEN

**Voluntary Action Camden is hosting a FREE training workshop for Camden residents and groups who want a better understanding of neighbourhood planning.** Planning Aid for London will help you

negotiate the planning system, understand how development in London works and explore what neighbourhood planning can do for you. The workshop will take place on Tues-

day 21st November, 6-8pm. Voluntary Action Camden’s 1st floor training room, 293-299 Kentish Town Road. NW52TJ. Please circulate to your groups, forums et al..... but places are limited so book early!

# INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

**One of the key questions we keep being asked is “who will undertake the independent examination of our neighbourhood plan?” Well we might not know who, but we can tell you who and how they will be selected.**

Invitations to apply to join the Independent Examiner Referral Panel for Neighbourhood Planning are being invited by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) by, in conjunction with:

- the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI)
- the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
- the Planning Officers Society (POS) Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE)
- and Locality

This will set up an Independent Examiner Referral Panel

The purpose of the initiative is to support the neighbourhood planning process, for the benefit of local authorities and community groups.

The Localism Act requires independent examiners of

neighbourhood (development) plans and neighbourhood development orders[1] to be appointed by the local planning authority with the consent of either the parish council, or designated neighbourhood forum for the designated neighbourhood area.

Qualified professionals who are experienced in planning and development are invited to apply to join a panel from which independent examiners will be drawn to examine neighbourhood plans and development orders. The panel and referral services will be managed by RICS in conjunction with RTPI, POS, ACRE, Locality and DCLG.

Qualified professionals who are experienced in planning and development are invited to apply to join a panel from which independent examiners will be drawn to examine neighbourhood plans and development orders.

Professionals who are currently employed at a senior level, or are recently retired, and are qualified members of professional bodies with extensive experience in their specialist areas would be well suited to apply. Applicants will also be expected to have a wide ranging knowledge and understanding of planning, especially neighbourhood planning under the Localism Act and be regarded by their peers as highly

experienced..

The main criteria for appointment to the panel are a high degree of relevant professional competence and an ability to operate in a quasi judicial role effectively. This reflects the fact that successful neighbourhood plans being examined will form part of the statutory development plan for the local area and neighbourhood development order will grant planning permission to development which complies with the order.

Applicants must also demonstrate a range of personal skills and knowledge including:

An appreciation of the differing levels of skills and knowledge in neighbourhood groups

An ability to manage the process with flexibility and efficiency

Excellent communication skills, both oral and writing (must be able to write reports in an accessible, coherent and consistent style)

An ability to deal with a wide range of personality dynamics and 'real world' problems

## Fees and expenses

It is intended that remuneration for independent examiners will be based on a daily rate of £700 (plus VAT) and reasonable expenses.

*‘The main criteria for appointment to the panel are a high degree of relevant professional competence and an ability to operate in a quasi judicial role effectively.’*

## IN THE LAP OF THE GODS?

Neighbourhood Planning made Prime Minister's Questions. MP Nadine Dorries asked the Prime Minister this question:

Nadine Dorries (Mid Bedfordshire) (Con):

Recently, a lap-dancing club in Ampthill, a rural market town in my constituency, has been granted a licence. The one thing that residents of Mid Bedfordshire have learned is that it does not matter whether it is a Wembley-sized incinerator or a lap-dancing club in a beautiful market town, the wishes of local people have absolutely no weight in plan-

ning law. Does the Prime Minister agree that it is time we amended planning law, so that, when catastrophic applications come forward that blight the environment people live in and which greatly distress them, their views and voice are heard?

The Prime Minister:

My hon. Friend speaks for many people about the frustration that the planning system can sometimes deliver. I would make two points about where we are making progress. First, we have changed the licensing laws to give the planners

greater power to alter licences, and I believe that that can apply to the sorts of premises to which she refers. Secondly, of course, under our plans, people can write neighbourhood plans, which give far greater control to residents over the shape of their future community. I encourage her, however, to take up the specific issue with the Department for Communities and Local Government, to see whether there is more that we can do.

Brings a whole new meaning to shaping not stopping development.

## Inner East Preston Neighbourhood Plan

Neighbourhood planning has been less of a hit in the north and has been more likely to be used in rural rather than urban areas.

The Friends of Fishwick and St Matthew's (FOFS) in Inner East are changing all of that.

Supported by Preston City Council they have embarked on a major consultation exercise. Asking questions such as:

**What are the main issues affecting you in Inner East Preston?**

**What strengths does Inner East Preston have?**

**Have a look at the issues identified in the Issues, Visions & Objectives paper - do you agree? Do you have any additions?**

**Do you agree with the Vision for each theme?**

**Do you think the Objectives will enable the Vision to become a reality?**

To help with this the group have pro-

duced an issues and options document - one of the most comprehensive we have come across.

They have also exhibitions and drop in events - the next two are:

**3 November 2012, Citizenzone Vehicle, Acregate Lane Club, 1.00 - 3.00pm**

**10 November 2012, Citizenzone Vehicle, Lidl Car Park, 1.00 - 3.00pm**

The deadline to complete the survey is 3 December 2012.

*'people can write neighbourhood plans, which give far greater control to residents over the shape of their future community'*

## SAINSBURYS LOOKS TO GET ROUND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN?

**Malmesbury in Wiltshire have made their application for neighbourhood area designation. The consultation runs until the 7<sup>th</sup> of December.**

**But Sainsburys have already fired a shot across the town council's bows.**

*Planning* magazine reported that Sainsburys will look for ways to get round the emerging neighbourhood plan if it blocked development.

The comments came after Wiltshire Council wrote to Sainsbury's and Waitrose asking the retailers to wait for residents to vote on a neighbourhood plan for Malmesbury before proceeding with new stores. Waitrose submitted its application in January 2012, while Sainsbury's submitted its application for a separate site in December 2011. Bruno Moore, Sainsbury's South West regional town planning manager, said:

"Sainsbury's is more than happy to work alongside local people, but if

we believe that neighbourhood plans are being used as a medium to stop development then we would use other means to move forward the development." But Simon Killane, from the town council outlined how neighbourhood planning was an opportunity for the supermarket giants: "This is nothing to do with nimbyism. We are actually helping developers." "What is better for them than to come into a system and go to a site that has been chosen for development by a local community?"

*"This is nothing to do with nimbyism.*

*We are actually helping developers.*

*"What is better for them than to come into a system and go to a site that has been chosen for development by a local community?"*

"

## ELMESTHORPE ROADSHOW

*The Elmesthorpe Fosse Villages are using a roadshow to publicise their Neighbourhood Plan.*

*Using large scale maps of the area, villagers will be able to make suggestions on how they want to see the area develop.*

*At roadshows in Croft and Sapcote more than 200 residents were able to consider the fu-*

*ture development of their villages.*

*Mike Lee, chairman of the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan Group, said: "We need input and the residents' support.*

*"With the Government's massive changes to planning law, our area could be rapidly suburbanised unless we put*

*forward a viable alternative plan, so we want people to support process.*

*"It will be no use people moaning in the future if they haven't contributed to the plan's development."*

*To find out more information, visit:*

*[www.fossevillages.org.uk](http://www.fossevillages.org.uk)*

# FREE TRAINING

## Want to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan? But not sure where to start?

Why not get help from our award winning team. For the first TEN parishes or community groups we are offering FREE Training.

**BOOK NOW** for our special offer of **FREE** Neighbourhood Planning training. Delivered around England here are just a few comments:

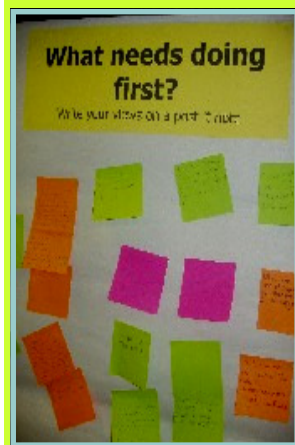
“very useful and a lot to think about!” (Bentham Parish Council).

“helpful and informative... ..a valuable source of information” (Simonstone Parish Council).

“everyone got something out of it and

they ended up with a greater understanding of the new system.” (Washburn Parish Council)

“thank you... .. everyone was pleased and impressed.” (Pontefract



Town Council and Pontefract Groups Together)

To book your FREE session call 01282 872570 or email Michael.

Specially designed for

parish and town councils, and neighbourhood groups our seminars deal with all aspects of neighbourhood planning: including the neighbourhood planning process, how to work with your local council, how to engage land owners and developers, and consult the rest of your community.

Our seminars also have the added benefit that one of our award winning team will come to you - we discuss the issues you want to discuss in your town or parish at a time and place of your choosing.

Normally our Neighbourhood Planning Seminars start from only £99.00 (plus VAT). Be one of the ten neighbourhoods to benefit from this special offer by telephoning Michael Wellock on 01282 872570.

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## ILKLEY SEEKS DESIGNATION

Ilkley Town Council have made an application for designation as a neighbourhood planning area.

As with all neighbourhood plans this will have to sit within the strategic policy frame-

work set by national planning policy, and Bradford's Local Development Framework (LDF).

On the LDF 12,000 representations have been received on the Core Strategy.

This Core Strategy identifies 3,100 new houses should be built in Ilkley, Burley-in-Wharfedale, Menston and Addingham by 2028, to meet a 45,000-home requirement for Bradford.

## Kirkwells

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*For expert  
help and  
advice call  
Kirkwells on  
**01282 872570***

Kirkwells believe town planning is about making things happen. Whether that be redeveloping a difficult brownfield site, or protecting beautiful countryside. We only do well planned, high quality sustainable development. Development that creates great places.

Planning can often feel complex and bureaucratic. So we use our knowledge and expertise to take the strain - taking the load off you, making things clearer, and steering your neighbourhood plan through the planning system so you achieve your goal. If you need help from expert RTPI chartered town planners to make something happen call **01282 872570**.

To help you further our web site provides regular, free, easy to understand updates on all the big issues - just keep an eye on our news, and Kirkwells' comment pages. When you do have an issue you need to talk about - get in touch. We provide a free, initial, consultation service - just call **01282 872570**, or simply send your query to

**[michaelwellock@kirkwells.co.uk](mailto:michaelwellock@kirkwells.co.uk)**

We are always happy to help and for all our clients provide the benefit of on-going advice and support.



# RTPI

mediation of space · making of place

Kirkwells—chartered town planners recognised by the RTPI

## NEED TO GET ON TOP OF ALL THIS?

Neighbourhood Planning is the biggest change to the planning system in a generation. Neighbourhoods and communities now have the right to plan.

And up and down the country many places are already exercising this right and preparing their own neighbourhood plan.

At Kirkwells we have year's of experience of preparing neighbourhood plans. Plans to regenerate places, plans to protect valuable heritage assets and the countryside. We only do well planned, high quality, sustainable development.

Neighbourhood planning can appear daunting at first—lots



Not sure which way to go? Try our training

of process and procedure and technical detail.

But it is not brain surgery and we can help your community get to grips with things and assist you in producing a plan for your neighbourhood.

Our planners can help you:

Prepare planning policies;

Consult and engage your local community;

Bid for and secure funding for your neighbourhood plan;

Prepare maps, plans and drawings;

Ensure general conformity with your local council's planning policies;

Make sure your plan is in line with national planning policy; and

Work with your local council, land owners, developers and people such as English Heritage.

**Just telephone Michael Wellock on 01282 872570 or email:**

**[michaelwellock@kirkwells.co.uk](mailto:michaelwellock@kirkwells.co.uk)**