

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING NEWS

*For expert
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Kirkwells on
01282
872570*

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NEW FUNDING: THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY



OK. The Good. £9.7 million of funding over the next two years. You know, and this may be a surprise, despite some quibbles, we remain big fans of neighbourhood planning.

The other key ingredient is that DCLG recognise the need to send some of this funding arrowing to those actually doing the neighbourhood planning. The various neighbourhood planning bodies, whether they be parishes or neighbourhood fora. This would be via a grant or voucher scheme.

Unfortunately, at this point, we have to say things start to go, for us a little pear shaped. Firstly, the grants, or vouchers would be up to £7,000 per neighbourhood area. For "start-up costs, training sessions, required studies and incidentals". £7,000? Didn't DCLG's own impact assessment acknowledge a complex neighbourhood plan could cost up to £60 odd thousand? Hopefully, to help such areas, they can come

back for more, and will not be limited to a single grant/voucher application.

But the really ugly bit is the funding split. *Only* 40% (£3.88 million) of the programme is going to the actual doers. The grants and vouchers we have just alluded to.

A whopping 57.5% (£5.58 million) will go to what is referred to as "direct support" to help neighbourhoods through the process, and administering the scheme. This will be provided by one provider, or a consortia. Bang goes the Government commitment to using smaller suppliers.

Now, the real fear is that this is the stuff we have had over the last two years from the four existing providers - training, web sites, how to guides - because the feedback we have had from the many we have talked to is that this has been OK up to a point, but has not helped them do what they really wanted to do - which is get preparing a plan. What

they really needed and wanted was direct funding - grants and vouchers. We say this after being involved in one way or another with over 20 neighbourhoods looking at neighbourhood planning. *The key question for the majority is how do we pay for all this?*

Now, if as we understand, if ministers have been slightly unimpressed with their existing programme why have they opted for such a poorly balanced funding split? We cannot help but say: "control". For almost 60% of the funding will be centrally controlled. After all we can't have those pesky communities doing, and deciding things, for themselves can we?

If neighbourhood planning is to be truly community-led the answer has to be yes.

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

DORE VILLAGE USES SURVEY MONKEY



Many neighbourhood plan budgets are tight.

But Dore Village Society, near Sheffield, have found a way of cheaply asking views

on whether they should turn 2005's Village Design Statement in to a neighbourhood plan.

They are using Sur-

vey Monkey a web based tool that can be used for free to set up basic questionnaire surveys. To find out more click [here](#).

"Neighbourhood planning is one of our specialities. So here at Kirkwells we are really looking forward to supporting Branston Parish Council"

Kirkwells Supporting Branston Plan

Branston Parish Council have appointed Kirkwells town planning consultancy to help them prepare their neighbourhood plan in one of the Government's frontrunner neighbourhood planning areas.

Branston are one of eleven neighbourhood planning frontrunners in East Staffordshire.

In announcing the appointment Branston Parish Council Chairman Mike Ackroyd said:

"We as a parish council are on a very steep learning curve with and from our

first meeting with Kirkwells they have given us the confidence to help us prepare our plan.

They are very keen to help and guide us and nothing is too much trouble, we are looking forward to working closely with them."

Kirkwells' Policy Director, Louise Kirkup said:

"Neighbourhood planning is one of our specialities. So here at Kirkwells we



Branston, Lawn's Farm—Sustainable Urban Extension?

are really looking forward to supporting Branston Parish Council, local residents and businesses to prepare their neighbourhood plan."

To find out how Kirkwells can help you with your neighbourhood plan call:

01282 872570

THAME PLAN TO ALLOCATE SITES

In a landmark decision the Inspector's report in to the South Oxfordshire Core Strategy has recommended deleting a strategic land allocation and devolving all housing allocations to the Thame Neighbourhood Plan. In March 2011 the Core Strategy for South Oxfordshire District Council was submitted to the Secretary of State with a strategic site allocation of 530 new dwellings to the north west of Thame.

It is now recommended this strategic site is deleted.

Firstly, because Henley-on-Thames Town Council is a government neighbourhood planning front-runner and is preparing a Neighbourhood Plan.

And, secondly, because the Inspector recognised that:

"The strategic allocation has many favourable sustainability credentials. However, it is unclear that it has the scope to accommodate as many as 600 new homes..."

The Inspector went on:

"During the evolution of the CS a number of other potential sites around Thame have been found to have

their particular advantages and disadvantages and their own sets of supporters and opponents. Moreover, the P[roposed]C[hanges] reflected the fact that more than one site is required to provide for the town's total housing growth, and it is evident that there is considerable local support for spreading this scale of provision among a number of different locations."

In accepting these arguments South Oxfordshire made a number of proposed changes to the Core Strategy.

The Inspector has, therefore, found the Core Strategy for South Oxfordshire sound subject to a number of main modifications.

Crucially, for this, and other neighbourhood plans, one of the main modifications

"devolve[s] all housing allocations to the Thame Neighbourhood Plan".

This means it will now be the job of the Thame Neighbourhood Plan to allocate housing land in the neighbourhood rather than the District Council's land allocations development plan document.

This reinforces two of the points Kirkwells have been making in our [neighbourhood plan training](#). One that your neighbourhood plan must be in "general conformity" with the strategic policies of your local council. With regard to this, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in paragraph 184 states:

"Neighbourhood plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan. To facilitate this, local planning authorities should set out clearly their strategic policies for the area and ensure that an up-to-date Local Plan is in place as quickly as possible."

And, secondly, in influencing the strategic policies of your local council you must remain engaged in the Local Plan process, but you can use your emerging neighbourhood plan as a key tool in doing this.

Therefore, this decision is a landmark case for the relationship between Neighbourhood and Local Plans in future. And a decision neighbourhood planning areas may be keen to repeat elsewhere in the country.

"this decision is a landmark case for the relationship between Neighbourhood and Local Plans"

HOW TO ENGAGE

The successful launch of the Stretton Neighbourhood Plan has just taken place. And if you view the photos what a success this was.

People through the door, numerous comments, new information, and dialogue opened, things to check, and potential new volunteers.

So how did we and Stretton parish council do it? Below are ten key things used in Stretton to make engagement and consultation on the neighbourhood plan a success.

Good Organisation - it may sound obvious, but this is a must. Decide in advance what you are doing, who is doing it, what materials you need, and how you will make a record of what was said and discussed.

Willing, enthusiastic and well-briefed volunteers- it is your plan so make sure that you have well-briefed, enthusiastic volunteers. People who know the area, who can immediately build a rapport with local people, but, importantly can explain more about neighbourhood planning.



Time and place- this may seem obvious but think hard about where you hold events (how big are they, how do people get there, are there other things going on etc.); and the timing of your event - when is the best time to get people to come to you and not all the other things they will want and have to do.



Have something to say - again it may sound obvious, but make sure you have something to say, and the right materials to get this across. People

expect to see something, and you want them to start to think and talk about the future of their area. For this you need words, pictures, drawings and maps to engage in debate.

Publicise - your event. Press releases, local papers like this sort of thing, send them a photo, use existing leaflets (e.g. church newsletters), schools, the more things you do the more likelihood you have of people turning out.

Controversy - is there another issue making news in the area? Causing controversy or making people ask questions - don't be afraid of tack-

ling such issues if it stirring up feeling it is important and is the type of thing people feel strongly about in terms of where they live. In Stretton cut-

"make sure that you have well-briefed, enthusiastic volunteers. People who know the area, who can immediately build a rapport with local people"

YOUR COMMUNITY



they live. In Stretton cutting of trees on one of the parishes open spaces, and new plans to plant street trees were causing disquiet locally. So the parish council got hold of the information and got ready to answer people's questions so they could tell people what was going on. Key point, if you do this – make sure you are well briefed and can answer questions, or tell people where to go for more information.

Dialogue – how many consultations do you know of, especially held by councils and developers, that leave you feeling frustrated, patronised and powerless? Most? Well, with neighbourhood planning you are in charge – your ambition should be to “do unto others as you would as you would have them do to you”. To do

this find ways of entering in to a dialogue, ways of ensuring people can influence your plan: ways in which people can ask questions and receive feedback; ways in which they can be involved in making decisions.

Never think just preparing fancy graphics and maps and just asking “what do you think?”, “do you support this?” is a replacement for real debate and dialogue – this is the hallmark of poor consultation, going through the motions and ticking boxes.

Invite other organisations and people – your neighbourhood plan needs partners – invite the council, the highway authority, key local decision makers, developers, and landowners. In preparing your plan you need to engage these people.

Keep good records – as

you prepare your plan you will have to prepare a Consultation Statement. For this you must keep good records: details of your publicity materials; who attended what event; what people said; and what you intend to do about it.

Tea and biscuits – people are taking the trouble to come out to see you and your plan. At least offer them a brew and a biscuit. And what better way to get people to stop and talk. And if the budget stretches to it, and the time and place is right, go further and offer food. There is nothing like food to bring people together and get them talking.

Simple? Obvious? In many ways yes, but just think how many big organisations get these things wrong? Consulting on fancy drawings and proposals that are already set in stone and cannot be changed. Don't make the same mistake.

Do you need to engage people on your neighbourhood plan? Need the help of award winning experts? Call Louise on 01282 872570

“find ways of entering in to a dialogue, ways of ensuring people can influence your plan:”

DESIGN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD WINNERS

The Cabe team at the Design Council today announced the recipients of Design Your Neighbourhood programme grants. 11 communities from Plymouth to Newcastle have been selected to receive funding, aimed at helping them achieve good design as they develop and transform their neighbourhoods. Design Your Neighbourhood works by linking community groups to local design partners who will provide expertise in architecture, planning and/ or urban design. Design support up to the value of £9,500 has been awarded to the 11 successful community groups. The

funding is paid directly to the design partner that is commissioned to work on the successful projects, with the community group setting the priorities in consultation with Cabe.

Cabe received almost 100 applications from community groups throughout England. The 11 winners were chosen by a specially-convened panel. They were looking for projects that demonstrated both the need for good design in the local area, as well as a good level of community support behind the project, in order to drive positive change.

The 11 communities receiving funding are:

- The 165 Project, Newcastle
- St Mary's Road Community Project, Wakefield
- Middleport Design Festival, Stoke-on-Trent
- Barne Barton Neighbourhood Plan, Plymouth
- Carterton Market Square, West Oxfordshire
- Foxhill Futures, Bath
- Jewellery Quarter Neighbourhood Led Design, Birmingham
- Re-claiming and Re-making Redcliffe Way, Bristol
- Alley Links, Tottenham Hale
- Wicken Road, Cambridgeshire
- Outside the Box, Yorkshire

"There are more than 200 communities working hard to bring their neighbourhood plans into effect, and lots more are being inspired to prepare their own plans."

KIRKWELLS IN RTPI'S UP FRONT



Our recent How to Engage the Community on Your Neighbourhood Plan feature has been picked up and

recommended by the RTPI's Planning Aid newsletter Up Front.

A little like our own Neighbourhood

Planning News, Up Front brings together top neighbourhood planning stories, events, and top tips!

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 8 7 2 5 7 0 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.

Be one of the ten neighbourhoods to benefit from this special offer telephone Michael on 01282 872570

NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING WEB SITE AND GUIDE

Locality has released a new neighbourhood planning road map and guide.

Planning Minister Nick Boles said: "There are more

than 200 communities working hard to bring their neighbourhood plans into effect, and lots more are being inspired to prepare their own plans. This guide

and website will show communities how to take up this powerful new right to shape the future of their local area." . Copies can be downloaded [here](#).

Kirkwells

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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

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 plan-



Not sure which way to go? Try our training

ning can appear daunting at first—lots 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