



Notes on Neighbourhood Planning

Welcome to the fourth edition of *Notes on Neighbourhood Planning*. We use these updates to let you know what we are up to, how we can help you, and how your work on the ground fits with the national picture. For general information on neighbourhood planning go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/giving-communities-more-power-in-planning-local-development/>

Upper Eden Says 'Yes'

Last night (7 March), in Brough Memorial Hall in Cumbria, the returning officer for Eden District Council announced the result of the first ever referendum to be held on a neighbourhood plan. Voters in Upper Eden had said yes to their neighbourhood plan with 90 per cent voting in favour. Turnout was 33.7 per cent.

This plan developed and now voted for by local people will make it easier for the community to have the housing they need and want by allowing more development on local farms and new homes for older people.

4,000 electors were given the chance to vote on the plan developed collectively by the 17 parishes of the Upper Eden valley, one of the most remote corners of England.

Already we are seeing the plan open up new opportunities for residents, such as a local farmer, who now hopes he will be able to convert a farm building into a home for his family as a direct result of the neighbourhood plan.

Speaking at the count, Chairman of the Upper Eden Neighbourhood Plan group, Tom Woof, said:



“The result is fantastic; 1,310 yes votes means that we not only have the simple majority required but also a ringing endorsement.”

Planning Minister Nick Boles said:

“This is an historic day for localism. The people of Eden have started a quiet revolution which we want to see spreading right across the country. They have had a direct say in setting out their vision for how their area should develop and deciding how they want to meet local challenges.

“Neighbourhood planning is an incredibly important new right and one that provides a real opportunity for people to bring about the homes, shops and facilities they want to see to make their community thrive.”

Elsewhere on twitter there was a great response:



Tony Burton @Tony4Place

It's official - first [#neighbourhoodplanning](#) referendum returns whopping YES vote in [@uppereden cumbria24.com/eden-valley/20...](#)



Simon Kiley @AirS_SK

Positive outcome on [#NeighbourhoodPlanning](#) by way of [#EdenValley](#) public referendum outcome. [#Sussex](#) parishes take note and be inspired.

The neighbourhood planning team hope people will use [#neighbourhoodplanning](#) on twitter to tell each other about progress and to build a sense of momentum.

Congratulations to everyone in Upper Eden from the team in DCLG. You have blazed a trail others can follow and learn from.

More information on the Upper Eden plan can be found online:
<http://bit.ly/X1FCR4>

And now on to May 2 when referendums are expected to be held in Exeter (the first ever neighbourhood forum to proceed to referendum and first urban neighbourhood plan) and Thame (the first neighbourhood plan to allocate sites, the first prepared by a town council and the first to have a public hearing). Read the all important [Thame](#) and [Exeter St James](#) examiners' reports online.

Networking Neighbourhoods

DCLG will be hosting further networking and learning events on 25 March, 30 April and 22 May at Eland House in London. The March event is full, but please get in touch with [Jenny Frew](#) if you are interested in coming in April or May. To maximise benefits for those attending, we want to ensure that everyone is at a similar stage. In April, we will focus on areas that have recently started out but have a clear idea of their main aims. May is for those who have a draft plan, or have begun drafting policies. We may not be able to



accommodate everyone on these dates, but will be holding further events throughout the year.

Alan Warburton, Town Clerk, [Winsford](#) had this to say about February's event:

"We found the neighbourhood planning networking meeting extremely useful. It was particularly helpful to share experiences with colleagues from other local councils who were at different stages of plan preparation. We were also pleasantly surprised at the detailed knowledge DCLG staff had of the Winsford Plan."

If you are a local authority with a number of neighbourhood planning areas: we can come to you! Please get in touch and we can discuss.

Plans, Plans, Plans

The number of areas progressing towards having a plan continues to grow. 22 areas have now published plans for consultation. Recent additions include:

[Backwell](#) (North Somerset Council); [Malmesbury](#) (Wiltshire Council); [Much Wenlock](#) (Shropshire Council); [Worth](#) (Dover District Council); [Broughton Astely](#) (Harborough District Council)

Financial support

In this edition we thought it might be useful to summarise the financial support for neighbourhood planning for the year ahead.

For this financial year 2013 – 14 changes to the local authority funding, announced on 18 December 2012 will come into effect. Local planning authorities will now be able to claim for up to twenty designations (£100,000). This means that, in total, authorities can claim for up to 30 designations over two years. The payments recognise the LPA officer time to provide advice and assistance to communities in taking forward their neighbourhood plans and payments for examinations and referendums.

We have also adjusted the payment stages, to reflect the work involved in getting a plan to publicity prior to examination. Payments will be staged to enable local authorities to claim:

- £5,000 following designation of a neighbourhood area;
- £5,000 will be made available when the local planning authority publicises the neighbourhood plan prior to examination and
- £20,000 will be made on successful completion of the neighbourhood planning examination.

Further details can be found here: <http://bit.ly/YgAkuK>



Details of the new communities support programme (including the grant scheme) will be announced soon. We will email details as soon as they are available.

Getting Started

If you are just starting the process of producing a neighbourhood plan or thinking about how it might help your community there are a number of sources you might find useful.¹

- [Locality's Roadmap](#) provides a good introduction into what undertaking a neighbourhood plan might actually mean for your area and how to go about it. [Locality's worksheets](#) are also a great starting place.
- Planning Aid also publish a monthly e-bulletin [Up Front](#) which DCLG regularly contributes to.
- The neighbourhood planning [LinkedIn](#) group is providing a useful forum for exchanging ideas and good practice.
- Neighbourhood planning is just one of the new Community Rights introduced in the Localism Act. Neighbourhood planning areas may be particularly interested in listing assets of community value and the right to bid. You can find out about more this online:
<http://mycommunityrights.org.uk/>

Statutory Consultees

English Heritage, Natural England, the Forestry Commission and the Environment Agency recognise that drawing up a neighbourhood plan is an exciting opportunity to improve your local environment. They have now prepared advice for groups starting work on a neighbourhood plan, neighbourhood development order, or Community Right to Build Order. It covers ideas, where to get information, and when to consult the statutory agencies.

For further information their joint [advice note](#) provides further information. English Heritage has additional advice on its [website](#).

The first point of contact for any neighbourhood planning is your local authority (council).

¹ DCLG is not responsible for the content of external sites



Tripline

Anyone following neighbourhood planning may be interested in the team's latest way of illustrating the exciting work underway in a range of different neighbourhoods across the country, [Tripline maps](#).

We hope Tripline will give you a flavour of some of the places where neighbourhood planning is taking off, allow you to see the streets and landscapes that local communities are making plans for, get some insights into their plans with links that you can follow to learn more.

This is our first venture on Tripline. Let us know what you think either by tweeting us @CommunitiesUK - #neighbourhoodplanning - or by emailing decentralisation@communities.gsi.gov.uk

The DCLG team

You can contact any of us via email, following the format: firstname.secondname@communities.gsi.gov.uk (e.g. mick.duggan@communities.gsi.gov.uk). Or you can call us, using 0303 44 followed by the five digit extension.

We also have two new members in the team – Jonathan Green (Area engagement - 030 3444 2061) and Katherine Salter (Policy - 030 3444 2534) – pictures to follow!

We continue to get out and about, recently visiting leading communities around the country, and their local planning authorities. Our thanks to all of those who have hosted us so far. We are very keen to accept invitations to attend or take part in events that you may be holding in your area to promote neighbourhood planning.

(The assistance the team provides is to help local planning authorities and qualifying bodies through a new process. It is not meant to be a substitute for your own professional or legal advice.)



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