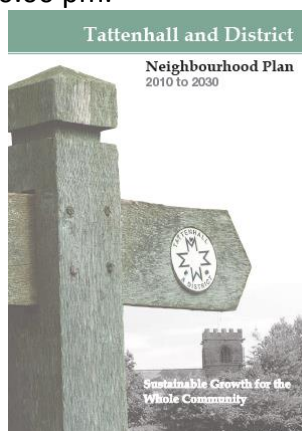




Referendum News

The fourth ever neighbourhood plan referendum, and the first in [Cheshire West and Chester](#), took place in [Tattenhall and District](#), Cheshire, on Thursday 24 October. The result was announced in the Barbour Institute, Tattenhall, one hour after polling closed at 10.00 pm.



The referendum produced a 95.97% 'Yes' vote on a turn out of 51.92%.

There are three more referendums on the way. [LynPlan](#), the neighbourhood plan for Lynton and Lynmouth in Exmoor National Park, goes to the vote on 21 November. The neighbourhood plan for [Norland](#) in Kensington and Chelsea, London, goes to the polls on 5 December. The date for the referendum on The Big Plan for [Broughton Astley](#) in Harborough will be confirmed shortly.

Another thirteen plans have been submitted for publicity and independent examination. You can find links to the submitted plans and examiners' reports on the neighbourhood planning Pinterest page: <http://pinterest.com/nplanning/>

Support for Neighbourhood Planning

Since April, the Department's support programme has been providing direct support to areas producing Neighbourhood Plans.

We're currently helping over 300 groups and have awarded £1.5m in grants. This support has been used to help groups designate their neighbourhood area, write draft plans and help ensure plans successfully proceed to referendum.

The direct support element of the programme in particular has been hugely popular and we've had many more applications than we expected. This is great news but means that the availability of certain parts of the direct support programme is currently limited, though grants are still available to all.

As of Monday 14th October, applications for direct support have only been accepted from groups who are an officially designated *neighbourhood forum* **or** have reached, or are within two months of reaching, their pre-submission consultation (whether neighbourhood forums, parishes or town councils).

The programme will reopen to all applicants at every stage of the process in February 2014.

In the meantime, there are lots of other great resources available online - find out more here: bit.ly/1aWcxYS

If you're not quite sure where you fit, please use the eligibility checker bit.ly/16UwWPO or call the advice line, 0845 345 4564, Mon-Fri 9.30am – 12.30pm.



Country wide

Over 500 neighbourhood planning areas have now been designated by their local authority. New applications are coming in every week, with over half of local authorities in England now working with communities on neighbourhood planning.

We are out and about meeting people doing neighbourhood planning. We have spoken to over 3,000 people, all who have something useful to share, whether it's a good example of community engagement or ways to engage with businesses.

Champions Event

We have set up a network of 'Neighbourhood Planning Champions'. On 16 October we held our launch event for the first wave of Champions, and it was great to see so much experience, expertise and enthusiasm for neighbourhood planning in one room.



Nick Boles MP and Rory Stewart MP welcome Neighbourhood Planning Champions to Eland House.

The Champions, who are all already doing great work in their areas, will play a vital part in continuing to grow and support the neighbourhood planning movement throughout the country.

The list of Champions is online: bit.ly/1a6XBuF, and the map on page 4 shows where they are across the country.

For more information contact Jonathan.Green@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Stephen Williams MP

Welcome to Stephen Williams as Parliamentary Under Secretary for the Department. He has taken on Don Foster's responsibilities for localism, decentralisation and community rights.

Stephen Williams is MP for Bristol West where there are two neighbourhood plans in progress. Stephen wrote the foreword to the Old Market Quarter Plan which is currently at pre-submission consultation.

Volunteer Spotlight

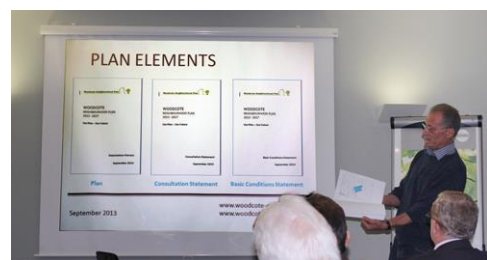
In previous editions of *Notes* we have asked you to nominate people who are demonstrating innovation and inspiration:

Geoff Botting - Woodcote

As Chairman of the Woodcote NP Advisory Group, Geoff has been a driving force behind the community's neighbourhood plan.

The plan was recently submitted to South Oxfordshire District Council for independent examination.

As a Parish, with a population of just over 2,000 people and set in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Geoff has been eager to demonstrate that the size and sensitivity of an area is no obstacle to producing a neighbourhood plan.



Geoff has met parishes near and far to share his experiences, including meeting residents from Bloxham, as reported in the [Bloxham Broadsheet](#).

Image courtesy of Bloxham Broadsheet Online

For nominations, email a short caption to decentralisation@communities.gsi.gov.uk



Research Network

A group facilitated by Antonia Layard, Tony Burton and William Sparling have initiated a Neighbourhood Planning Research Network. The network comes as a result of two academic network meetings held at DCLG during September which brought together researchers with an interest in neighbourhood planning issues.

The network will provide a forum to help share information in the neighbourhood planning field, building on some of the really interesting case study research already underway. There are plans for a website, and further information sharing opportunities.

To get involved or for further information please contact Antonia Layard at antonia.layard@gmail.com.

Going Digital

With your help the neighbourhood planning map will now have details for over 700 areas.

¹ <http://bit.ly/17i8HuP>

If you have not yet used the map/app, it is a simple way of letting people know where you are, what you are doing and likewise to find areas in a similar position to you.

Keep using the app and we will keep you updated about where communities are progressing across the country.

<https://sites.google.com/site/npareainfo/>

For instance, why not use the app to add a link to your website?

Want to know about other useful data that is available online? For instance:

The Land Registry has published outlines of land ownership on a map:

<http://t.co/ullEqatGaz>.

And DCLG have lots of data available via <http://opendatacommunities.org>.

¹ The data is collected from informal monitoring so will not be 100% accurate.

On The Road with @FishwickStMatts

On 11th October residents from Fishwick St Matthews in Preston visited the community in Holbeck, Leeds, to share their experiences of neighbourhood planning.



For more info follow Preston City Council's [blog post](#).

This was a great idea to help each neighbourhood forum understand how they could advance their plans. Just as good, they shared their journey with the world on Twitter, sending out photos and tips whilst they went along.

Their 17 tweets from the day reached over 2,000 Twitter users. If you want to see any of their future ventures, you can follow [@FishwickStMatts](#) and [@TalkingHolbeck](#).

There are over 100 neighbourhood planning groups on Twitter, you can see what they are up to using this [list](#).

The DCLG team

If you are a local authority with neighbourhood planning areas and are able to provide a venue, we may be able to come to you to hold a networking event.

For any enquiries please contact:

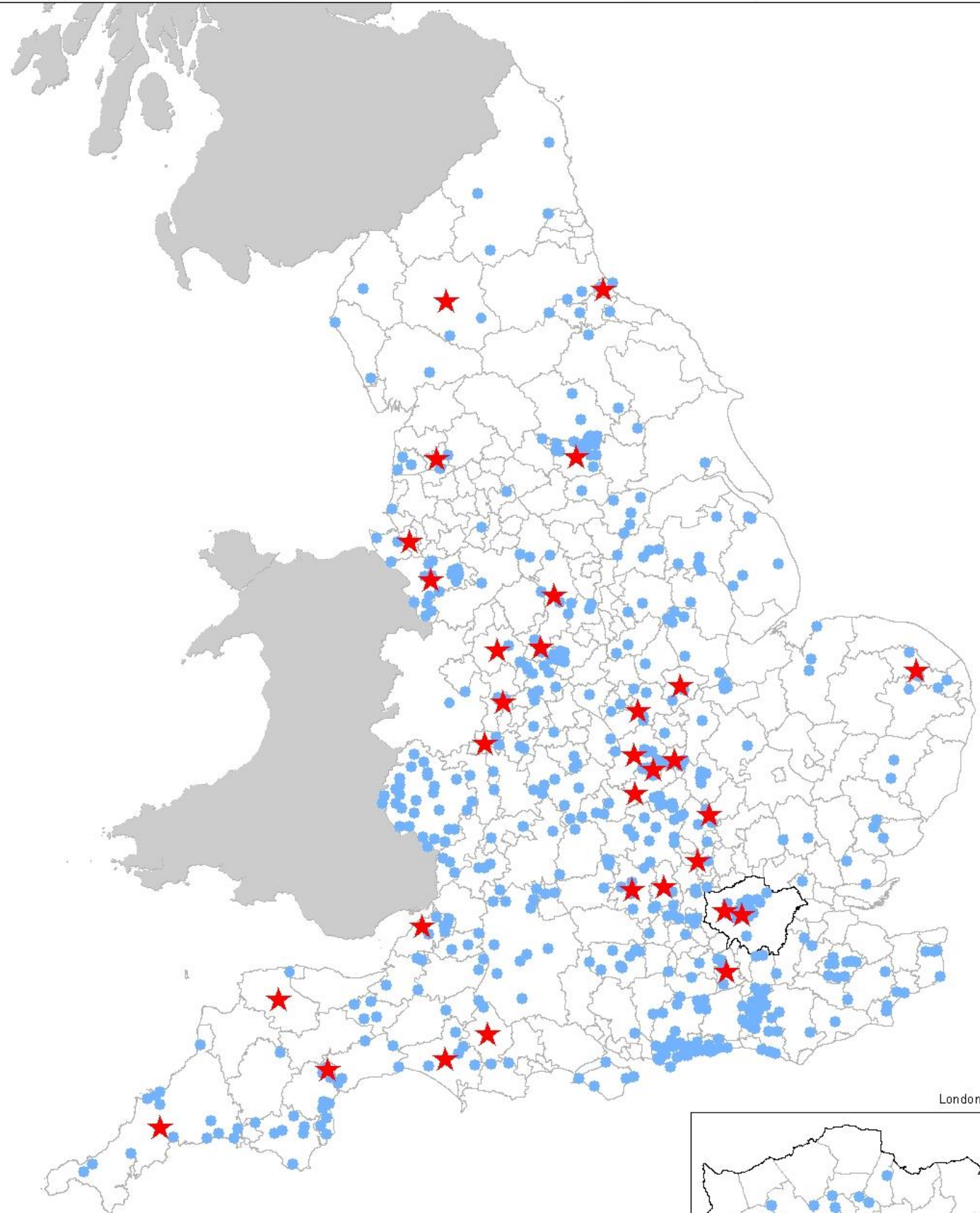
decentralisation@communities.gsi.gov.uk²

See the 'Notes' archive: <http://bit.ly/YrFyUh>

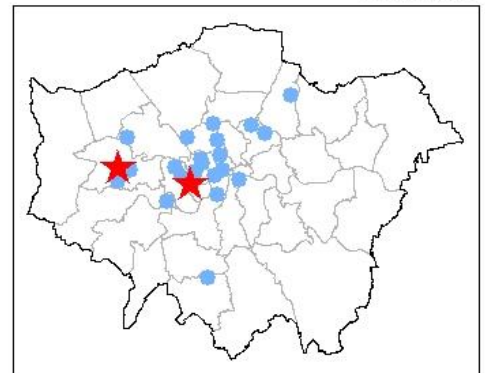
² The team provides help to local planning authorities and qualifying bodies through a new process. This is not a substitute for your own professional or legal advice.



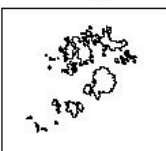
Neighbourhood Planning Champions



London Inset



Isles of Scilly Inset



Neighbourhood Planning at October 2013

This data was gathered by the informal monitoring
of local authority websites and is updated regularly.