



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

NOTES ON #neighbourhoodplanning

December 2013
Edition eight

Referendum News: Two More Firsts...

Congratulations to both Lynton & Lynmouth and Norland for passing referendum.

Lynton and Lynmouth



- Votes for: 187 (81%)
- Votes against: 45 (19%)
- Turnout: 16.9%

North Devon and Exmoor National Park
21 November 2013

The Lyn Plan was the FIRST referendum to take place within a National Park Authority. The Plan was formally made on 3 December. To find out more, follow the link: bit.ly/1a0hgq6



Picture: Stephen Williams MP visits Norland ahead of the referendum.

Norland



- Votes for: 429 (74%)
- Votes against: 152 (26%)
- Turnout: 581 (26%)

Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea
5 December 2013



The Norland Plan is the FIRST plan to pass referendum in London. To find out more, go to: bit.ly/1dUa4V9

... And Two More On The Way

Two more referendums are lined up for January 2014. The plan for Broughton Astley will go to the public vote on 16 January. The referendum on the Cringleford neighbourhood plan should take place in late January.

Both plans allocate sites for housing, with Cringleford allowing for approx 1,200 homes.

The Year Gone By

2013 saw the number of communities applying for neighbourhood area designation surpass 800, across over half of all the local planning authorities in England. The year ends with over 630 neighbourhood areas designated, 54 draft plans published, 25 plans submitted to examination, 9 passed examination, 6 plans passed referendum and 4 plans in force.

See page 4 for our graphic on how the neighbourhood planning movement has grown over the last 12 months.

Meanwhile in Thame, outline planning permission was given for 175 houses on one of the sites allocated through the neighbourhood plan. The Thame neighbourhood plan passed referendum in May and was 'made' in July. The plan allocates sites for 775 new homes alongside policies covering matters such as retail, getting around and design. You can read some of the local media coverage of the decision at: www.thameonline.net/archives/10891

Our thanks to everyone who has played a part in a year of real progress and achievement. Press release: bit.ly/1HohpM

British Property Federation Launch

The British Property Federation (BPF) has launched a website to support business involvement in neighbourhood planning:

www.neighbourhoodplanning.biz/

Local businesses are at the heart of successful, sustainable communities and are a key contributor to economic growth.

The launch event for the website took place on 26 November at the Tate Modern, hosted by Better Bankside, a designated business neighbourhood planning area. Planning Minister Nick Boles spoke at the launch, alongside Donald Hyslop, Head of Regeneration and Partnerships at the Tate Modern, Nigel Hughes, estate surveyor at Grosvenor, and Jon Kenny, Development Director at Commercial Estates.

A designated neighbourhood business area is one that is wholly or pre-dominantly business in nature. In designated business areas there will be two referendums: one for residents and one for non-domestic ratepayers.



There are currently 11 designated business areas taking forward neighbourhood plans and several others which have strong business involvement. Central Milton Keynes, the most advanced business neighbourhood plan, is currently at examination. www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning

The launch of the BPF website is timely. Businesses of all shapes and sizes can benefit from becoming involved in neighbourhood planning, whether or not in a designated business area. The case studies and other information on the BPF site will also be useful for anyone undertaking a neighbourhood plan.

See more via: <http://britpropblog.com/>

Examination Time

Sixteen examinations have been held so far, including 7 public hearings. Nine examiner's reports have been issued, all recommending that the plan proceeded to referendum with modifications.

These reports are all in the public domain and should make interesting reading for communities preparing a plan for examination. We'd encourage you to have a look through some of the examiner's reports and to keep an eye out for future upcoming reports.

There are a number of recurring themes in the examiners' reports including the need for the planning policies to be written clearly and concisely, to be supported by a robust but proportionate evidence base and the need to demonstrate that the plan can be delivered.

Links to plans submitted to examination and surrounding documents can be found on the Pinterest board: bit.ly/18psF3p



Picture: Nick Boles answers questions from neighbourhood planners at the BPF launch

Grants – Just a reminder

Communities can apply for grants of up to £7k to help you work on your neighbourhood plan. If you have not yet applied for the full amount, please do so via: bit.ly/1cVZpV3

Neighbourhood Development Orders

Cockermouth in Allerdale has submitted the the first Neighbourhood Development Orders (NDO) for examination.

If an NDO is brought into force, after being successful at examination and referendum, there would be no need to apply to the council for planning permission for development covered by the order. This should make it easier and quicker for such development to go ahead in the future.

A Neighbourhood Development Order can grant planning permission for specified developments in a neighbourhood area.

Cockermouth's 4 Orders aim to help support town centre growth and encourage a café culture - for instance, by allowing restaurants to open up onto public highways. See what they are proposing at: bit.ly/1bqq6oy

Sign up for Planning Camp

Following the success of the Bristol Planning Camp in 2013, two more Planning Camps have been arranged for 2014. These will be hosted over the weekends of 23 to 25 March in York and 3 to 5 April in Oxford.

The camps are funded by DCLG and delivered by the Eden Project in partnership with Locality and Planning Aid England. Find more info at: bit.ly/1hvulAJ

You've Got The Power

Over 700 assets have been listed by their communities. Support and grants are available via: www.sibgroup.org.uk and www.locality.org.uk.

A new £150m Big Lottery initiative 'Power to Change' was launched on 6 December to help support community-led enterprises and the ownership of community assets. Find out more at: bit.ly/1jtc0Ui

On the Road with 50 Champions

Our network of volunteer Champions has been supporting communities interested in neighbourhood planning; sharing experience and expertise, and building networks.

For example in December, Neighbourhood Planning Champion Corinne O'Hare organised an event for over 30 parish representatives from East Staffordshire and several neighbouring authorities to share learning on the neighbourhood planning process.

Elsewhere, Graham Spencer and Carol Weaver have been sharing their experiences of taking a neighbourhood plan through to referendum in Tattenhall. They recently presented alongside the Leader of Cheshire West and Chester Council, Mike Jones at a Planning Advisory Service training day for local councillors.

Champions are sharing their experiences via a number of platforms. You can follow the champions on Twitter via this list https://twitter.com/JonnyG_369/lists/np-champions-



[network](#) and join in the conversation using #neighbourhoodplanning (<https://twitter.com/search?src=typd&q=%23neighbourhoodplanning>).

For more information and how to get in touch with your nearest champion contact: jonathan.green@communities.gsi.gov.uk

The DCLG Team

Aidan Wilkie has joined DCLG to head up the neighbourhood planning team. Aidan brings his experience from the Home Office and Ministry of Justice and is looking forward to seeing communities progress with their neighbourhood plans across the country.

For any enquiries please contact: decentralisation@communities.gsi.gov.uk¹

See the 'Notes' archive: bit.ly/YrFyUh

¹ 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.



