



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

NOTES ON #neighbourhoodplanning

August 2013
Edition six

Government Guidance

On 28 August, DCLG launched guidance on neighbourhood planning as part of the national planning practice guidance web-based resource. This is the first time government planning practice guidance has been available online in an up-to-date, usable and accessible way.

You can find the neighbourhood planning homepage here: <http://bit.ly/16THAnC>

The new tool is in test mode and is open for comment: none of the current planning practice guidance will be cancelled until the final online guidance is in place and live later in the autumn.

Any neighbourhood plan or order submitted to the local planning authority before the new guidance is issued will be able to rely on the current guidance suite.

The guidance covers issues that we know from your feedback are of interest to many communities, from designating areas (<http://bit.ly/141C11I>) to the weight of emerging plans and the relationship between neighbourhood plans and local plans (<http://bit.ly/1dp5I6V>). It is vital reading.

The on-line resource will be open for public comment until **9 October** with a final go-live planned for the autumn.

Read the press notice here: www.gov.uk/government/news/new-streamlined-planning-guide-launched-online

Plans, Plans, Plans

The movement keeps growing as over half of local authorities have now received applications to designate areas (see map on page 4). Herefordshire lead the way with 40+ applications, Leeds 20, Mid Sussex and Westminster 19. Tattenhall, in Cheshire West and Cheshire, has become the fourth plan recommended for referendum by an independent examiner. Read the examiner's report here: <http://t.co/r8YKZMJAIQ> Meanwhile, plans submitted to examination are now into double figures. It's worth reading each plan's statement of how they meet the Localism Act basic conditions. For links to all submitted plans: <http://pinterest.com/nplanning/>



On The Road

The DCLG neighbourhood planning team has been 'On The Road' recently, hosting networking events in Preston and Rushcliffe. We hope to carry on our travels over the coming months.

If you are a local authority with neighbourhood planning areas and are able to provide a venue, we will come to you!

Please get in touch at:

jonathan.green@communities.gsi.gov.uk.



Independent Examiners Panel

In July, Planning Minister Nick Boles attended the launch of the Neighbourhood Planning Independent Examiner Referral Service established by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors.

The panel provides access to impartial and qualified independent examiners. It is the local authority's responsibility to appoint the examiner, with the consent of the neighbourhood forum or parish council.

For more information on using the panel, see:

<http://www.rics.org/uk/knowledge/news-insight/news/boles-backs-planning-service1/>

Champions

Ministers recently wrote to the leading local authorities engaging in neighbourhood planning asking them to nominate councillors, officers and community members in their area to form a 'Neighbourhood Planning Champions' network.

We have already had a great response to this, and as the network develops we look forward to it becoming an exciting new tool in growing the neighbourhood planning movement. Nominees will be hearing more from us shortly.

“This is the Future of Planning”

The Secretary of State spoke at the RTPI Convention in July where he called neighbourhood planning “the future of planning”.

He recognised Thame's recent award from the RTPI and echoed the A-Team, “We love it when a neighbourhood plan comes together”. The speech is here:

<http://bit.ly/15Bn7Sm>

Congratulations to Thame Town Council and Tibbalds for winning the RTPI award for Innovative Use of Planning.

See details here: <http://bit.ly/1443AgD>

Volunteer Spotlight



In the last edition of 'Notes...' we asked you to nominate people who are showcasing innovation and inspiration.

Ron Simpson – Uppingham First

Ron is part of the group leading the Uppingham neighbourhood plan in Rutland, a market town, population of 4500 with around 1800 dwellings.



Ron, with members of the Task Group, has been tirelessly consulting residents and businesses over the last 18 months.

The Uppingham approach has included regular newsletters, community voting, classroom discussions, 'Meet the Developer' events and one-on-one engagement with the housebound and the elderly.

Ron also made presentations to the local Business and Neighbourhood groups. In addition he has participated in national events organised by DCLG, Action for Market Towns (AMT) and the Design Council.

Ron has kindly offered his email address if you would like more info: secretary@uppinghamfirst.co.uk

If you want to nominate someone for the next edition, email a short caption to Charlotte.Dring@communities.gsi.gov.uk.

Support Update

In the first three months, over £1m in grants has been awarded, along with expert support packages for over 100 neighbourhood planning groups.

Don't forget that you can apply for both grant and Direct Support. Information can be found at <http://bit.ly/YQGy8V>. Our aim is to award grants and support packages as quickly as possible.

Please remember to read the guidance on the My Community Rights web pages (<http://bit.ly/1bPSI9w>). Some of the lessons learned are, avoid:

- applying for ineligible items
- applying for grant and direct support to cover the same tasks
- applying for larger amounts than £7,000 without explaining what specifically the grant element will cover.

Big Lottery – Awards for All

Awards for All gives groups a quick and easy way to get small Lottery grants of between £300 and £10,000.

They fund a wide range of community projects aimed at developing skills, revitalising the local environment and enabling people to become more active citizens.

More information can be found at: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_a4a_eng



Competition

We have launched a competition with the Post Office Ltd to identify 20 innovative schemes across England. Sub-postmasters have until 18 October to apply for up to £10,000 to support community schemes.

More info at: www.postoffice.co.uk/community-enterprise-fund

Put Your Area on the Map – Literally!

The neighbourhood planning map now has details and links for over 600 areas. 1
<http://bit.ly/17i8HuP>

We have also developed an app so you can help us update your details and improve the map. This should be a simple way of letting people know where you and what you are doing. Please add your area and suggest changes where appropriate.

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

If you know anyone who may be interested in using neighbourhood planning data, whether to make their own maps, apps or websites, do get them involved.

Locality have published a short briefing note about helpful data sources.

<http://bit.ly/13QcyPU>

If that's not enough, DCLG have lots of data available which may also be of interest.

<http://opendatacommunities.org>

Other Tools to Use

The Localism Act introduced a number of Community Rights, including *Community Right to Bid*. Over 360 assets have been listed for protection by communities including pubs, green spaces, a castle, lakes and even football stadiums. Info on support is found at: www.sibgroup.org.uk, www.locality.org.uk

Meanwhile, using *Community Shares*, communities raised £9million in equity capital last year to buy-out pubs, shops, and run renewable energy schemes.

www.communityshares.org.uk/

The DCLG team

For any enquiries please contact: decentralisation@communities.gsi.gov.uk²

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

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

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.



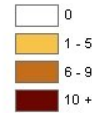
Neighbourhood Plans underway in 50+% of Local Authorities



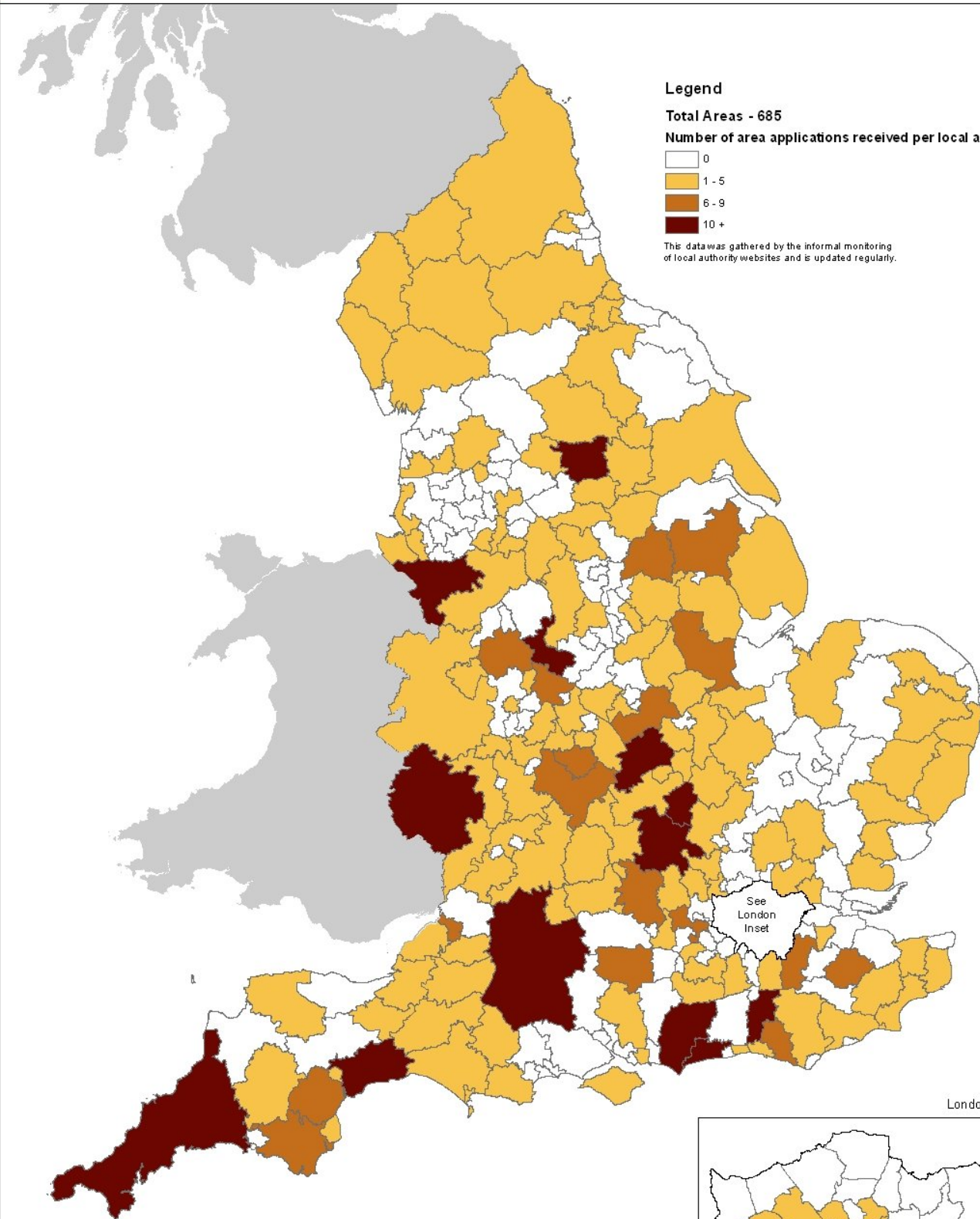
Legend

Total Areas - 685

Number of area applications received per local authority

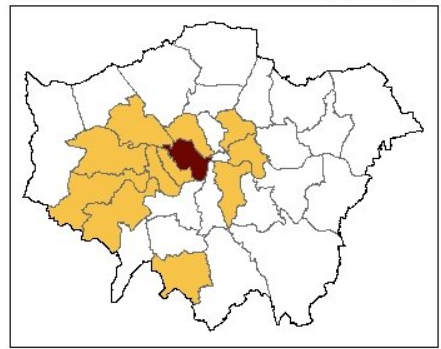


This data was gathered by the informal monitoring of local authority websites and is updated regularly.



See London Inset

London Inset



Isles of Scilly Inset

