

Leicestershire Neighbourhood Planning Networking Event, Key Points Tuesday 24 November 2015

Planning Policy Pitfalls

Q1 How did this NP get into this situation?

Professional support was lacking and there was a poor relationship with planning authority. For example; minimum housing target of 180; provision of 90 homes in plan. Hoped it would be justified at public hearing but examiner did not call one and therefore no opportunity to make that provision.

Q2 Why can't examiners use a template?

That makes sense! Examiners regularly get together to discuss issues which provided uniformity; however, NPs show individual perspective, which makes it interesting. It is therefore, impossible for a template but agree conformity is needed.

Q3 Who are examiners?

They are not always planners, they can be planning lawyers, consultants etc. It is critically that they understand the process.

Q4. Do examiners need to know the area?

No – it's advantageous not to, often due to conflict of interest.

Q5 – What happens when a plan is adopted and then significant legislation comes in?

NP committee group should be aware of any upcoming changes during consultation and should make sure that their NP is future proofed.

Leicestershire Updates

Hungerton

Completed designation and had 1st consultation and now working on themes with sub committees. This led onto a questionnaire and 2nd consultation. No pitfalls have been encountered and everything is on schedule with good engagement from Parishioners.

Market Bosworth

Passed referendum; 88% voted in favour with a 23% turnout. Now moving into implementation and monitoring stage. Preparing a design brief for allocation of sites.

Long Clawson

Recently submitted an application for NP. They are one of three villages that make up the parish area. This village has been designated as a primary development centre, destined for more development.

Stoke Golding

Still very early in the process; asked question about how they designate areas. Answer - they can designate area but it cannot overlap with another area. Their PC are reluctant to get involved and it was suggested that they need to build relationships and other villages deliver collative NP's.

Waltham / Thorpe Arnold

The PC area represents three very different villages. There is likely to be development pressure in all villages. They have designated the area and are now collating evidence and consulting with parishioners.

Somerby

They have applied for area designation, which is currently with Melton Borough Council for consultation. Q - Can a neighbourhood plan be considered in planning applications prior to adoptions? A - Market Bosworth reflected on their experiences, where two planning applications were overturned and an appeal withdrawn due to their draft neighbourhood plan. They were able to demonstrate the weight of evidence and public support for a different site.

Q - How can NP integrate sustainable transport? A - Sustainability is part of a NP, but there needs to be a balance – through growth of housing, infrastructure, retail etc and you can support sustainable growth through developer contributions and prioritising areas. The NP cannot do everything but it can control and safeguard areas and developments; however, this needs to be scaled and controlled for example, Kibworth and 1,200 homes.

Neighbourhood Planning – Informing, Engaging & Consulting the Community

Q How can you access funding for undertaking a NP?

Can apply to Locality for a grant of up to £5000. It's a straight forward process.

Q Copyright maps – can these be provided by the LA?

Yes – you need to show the copyright number at the bottom.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 24 May 2016, at County Hall further details and formal invitation will be sent nearer the time. Please contact Nik Green, Policy Officer if you have any queries.

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