

Leicestershire Neighbourhood Planning Networking Event, Key Points

Tuesday 24th May 2016

DCLG Update

Due to cutbacks, DCLG will no longer be in attendance; however, they will provide support via telephone and email. Liaise with Nik Green or Sarah Rudkin if required.

Planning Aid England (PAE)

John Romanski highlighted elements of the new Housing & Planning Act 2016. Full act is available at www.leicestershireforums.org/neighbourhood-planning. PAE provide a range of guidance notes and support for neighbourhood planning which can all be found via their website <http://www.rtpi.org.uk/planning-aid/neighbourhood-planning/>. More guidance will be coming forward from Locality. Use the knowledge of your local planners when writing policies.

Q: Re high growth areas, What about 20%?

A: Full detailed guidance is available on the Locality website.

Q: Are there issues with not having an NP?

A: In an ideal world no, if you are happy with planning decisions in your area and the visions set out for the future. NPs provide a real mechanism for a community to actively shape its future.

Q: What legal weight does an NP have with an emerging Local Plan?

A: If at submission stage, significant. The further developed the NP the more weight it will carry. Evidence will be there for the development of a Local Plan.

Q: How do you get a robust evidence base from consultation?

A: PAE guidance is available. A large amount of evidence will already be there, eg Local Plan evidence, Local Census, house price data etc. Support can also be found via the Planning Advisory Service and the National Planning Practice Guidance.

Q: Community Consultation?

A: Avoid loaded questions, don't assume people will come to you, and engage with hard to reach groups. Be very careful and open with your questions.

Q: Borough Council have completed their Local Plan, is it right that the NP cannot conflict with this?

A: Yes; however, usually the Local Plan is very broad. Speak to your local planning officers, find out about their key strategic policies. You don't necessarily have to have absolute conformity but general.

Q: Do we need to wait until our Local Plan is complete?

A: An examiner will look at emerging Local Plans but will consider evidence. Where conflict, the law states that the most recent, up-to-date plan is the valid. You also need to try to future proof your NP. When your Local Plan is adopted if you have not taken it into account you could find your NP suddenly out-of-date.

Q: 'Not in my back yard' question?

A: The process allows communities to understand what the character of their area is and explore and shape its future.

Resilience Planning

Introduction to Community Response Plans, how to prepare a community for an emergency by ensuring a robust plan of action is developed in close collaboration with organisations such as Council, Police and the Environment Agency. The plan can then be put in action in the event of an emergency.

Q: How might this work?

A: In the first instance a Parish Council or nominated group/organisation should contact us and we will guide them through the process.

If you would like to create a resilience plan for your Parish visit www.llrprepared.org.uk.

Superfast Broadband

Within the planning framework, mandating the provision of superfast broadband (30Mbps+) will help you to future proof an area. New agreements between BT, Government and the Home Builders Federation mean that for any developments of 250+ dwellings, BT will cover all installation costs. Furthermore, BT will provide a Fibre to the Premise (FTTP) solution to all such developments. For developments below this size, it will be up to the individual developer to decide on the type of broadband services that will be installed. They could pay for the more expensive fibre broadband installation or opt for a basic copper telephony which BT has a legal obligation to provide. The Superfast Leicestershire programme is unable to bring new developments into its plans. This is where your NP has an opportunity to bridge the gap.

Q: Tilton on the Hill bid for money to improve speeds in their area and are served by HERBS, a community wireless broadband provider that is reaching areas Superfast Leicestershire is not able to.

A: Visit www.superfastleicestershire.org.uk to find details of the Superfast Leicestershire rollout plans. The vast majority of the HERBS area will gain access to superfast fibre through the programme's Contract 2 rollout.

We can provide an overview to Parish Councils of their area.

Q: If our Local Plan is currently under consultation, how will Superfast Leicestershire's activity in villages help cover new housing allocations in those areas?

A: The fibre installed through the programme can cope with demand levels well beyond existing premise and usage levels. To a great extent, it is future proofed.

Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 22 November 2016, Leicestershire County Council, 5.30pm. Please contact Nik Green, Policy Officer (Communities) to book a place. Nik.Green@leics.gov.uk.

**Nik Green | Policy Officer (Communities) | T: 0116 3057309
2 June 2016**