



Neighbourhood Planning - hints and tips

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Scope

- Vision and objectives (community-derived)
- Land allocations
 - Development
 - Schools etc.
 - Cycleways
- Sustainability & biodiversity
- Local Green Spaces (become same as Green Belt)
 - Don't forget allotments, churchyards etc.
- Valued Views
 - From highways and public rights-of-way

Organization

- Parish Council sub-committee or community group?
 - Constitution – scope, membership
 - Freedom to meet, communicate, spend
- Working Groups
 - Organized by policy group?
 - Opportunity for wider community engagement
 - Tap local specialist expertise
 - Research and draft candidate policies
- Professional consultant
 - At what stage?
 - Essential for policy triage, linguistic 'polish', process advice

Surveys

- Residents' Survey
 - Plan **very carefully**
 - Try to anticipate what specific evidence you will need later
 - Policies, LGS, views
 - Make numeric where possible
 - Invite (& record) free-text comments
- Business survey
- Housing need survey
 - Local connection (relatives, jobs)
 - Current housing stock and model of future changes
 - Local 'churn' (demographic change) vs. population expansion
- Working groups have their own mini-surveys

Designate development site(s)?

- + Community control over scale and location
- + Increased community 'ownership' of planning process
- + Respected by SWDP process (hopefully)
- + Additional NP funding and free consultancy

- More local 'debate'
- NIMBY aggression
- Lower referendum "yes" percentage?
- SWDP prior allocations make redundant?

Final documents

- The Plan itself
 - 15-year life
 - Stand up to legal challenge from e.g. developers in future life?
 - Omit pre-approval logic?
- Consultation Statement
 - Record and curate **everything** as you go
 - Records and results of surveys
 - Fetes, open days, local news sheets...
- Basic Conditions Statement (legal - consultant to provide)
- (Evidence, Reasoning, Justification)
 - Used in Harvington
 - Contained pre-approval evidence, analysis, calculations, logic

Closing tips

- Grants available from WDC, Locality
- The NPPF is your friend! Learn to love it!
- Record everything – as you go
 - Use a web site under your control
- Keep communicating
- Build community support via social media
 - Village Facebook page?
- Andy and Reiss are there to help – use them
- Learn to ‘dance lightly’ around Parish Council procedures and culture
- It *will* take longer than you expect. Don’t panic, don’t give up.