



The Big Event: Neighbourhood Planning Workshop

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Introduction

- Some Background
- Open Source Planning
- The Localism Bill
- Neighbourhood Plans
- Neighbourhood Development Orders
- Funding
- Some Questions



Background 1

- 1947 T&CP Act ‘nationalised’ the right to develop land
- State is required to balance the rights of landowners, developers and communities (existing and new)
- The balance between these interests has shifted over time



Background: 2

- Planning system established in a more ‘deferential’ post war society
- By the 1960’s, things had changed: Skeffington Report (1969)
- 2004: ‘Statements of Community Involvement’, ‘frontloading’, expansion of Planning Aid England, Parish Plans as SPD
- 2011: ‘Neighbourhood Planning’



Background: 3

- The Localism Bill is part of a long term trend reflecting wider changes in society
- It should not to be viewed in isolation from the past



Open Source Planning

- Planning aspects of the Localism Bill have been strongly influenced by ‘Open Source Planning’ (Conservative Party Green Paper, 2009)
- OSP argued that the planning system was ‘broken’ – too divisive and not delivering enough development
- OSP proposed a planning system based on neighbourhood plans, led by local communities.



Localism Bill

- RSSs replaced by a ‘duty to co-operate’
- Neighbourhood Plans
- Neighbourhood Development Orders and ‘Community Right to Build’
- Few changes to Local Development Frameworks
- Establishment of ‘National Planning Policy Framework’ (non-statutory so not in the Bill, but an important part of the new system)



Neighbourhood Plans

- Initiated by a Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum approved by the Local Planning Authority (LPA)
- Part of the statutory development plan
- Subject to Examination, SA, a local referendum, then adopted by the LPA
- Must be in general conformity with LDF – can enable more development (but not less)
- Cannot address minerals, waste or national infrastructure issues



Neighbourhood Development Orders

- Also Initiated by a Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum approved by the Local Planning Authority (LPA)
- Has the effect of granting planning permission
- Based on existing Local Development Orders
- Also subject to an Examination, SA, a local referendum, then adopted by the LPA
- ‘Community Right to Build’ is a form of NDO



Funding

- LPA has a duty to support, and must pay for the examination and referendum
- However, communities must fund the development of the Plan/NDO themselves (with private sector support?)
- Existing Planning Aid budget (£3 million pa) will be split between a number of advice services to provide 'choice' to communities
- A limited amount of 'vanguard' funding to be made available to some LPAs (£20k each)



Some Questions for you:

- Would your community be interested in establishing a Neighbourhood Plan/NDO?
- If so - what sort of things would it cover?
- If not - why not?
- What are the practical barriers in getting more people involved in the planning process – and how might these be overcome?



Any finally...

...Any Questions for me?