

# Introduction to Neighbourhood Planning

## What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

The Localism Act (2011) reformed the planning system to allow local people more say in determining planning policy for their area by producing a Neighbourhood Plan.

Neighbourhood planning gives local people the opportunity and responsibility to decide the future of the places where they live and work. This will include setting out the vision for an area and the planning policies for the use and development of land. Such policies can choose where you want new homes, shops, leisure facilities or employment opportunities to be built and what these buildings should look like.

There are, however, limitations on what can be proposed in a Neighbourhood Plan. For example, all Plans should conform to planning policies and guidance at a local, national and European level and meet the requirements of relevant legislation and regulations. They should focus on guiding development rather than stopping it and this will be tested by an independent examination.

Neighbourhood Plans also need to demonstrate involvement of the local community throughout their preparation and decision making, and they will be subject to a referendum upon completion.

Once such a Plan is adopted, it will become part of the Knowsley Local Plan, which means that it will be used by Knowsley Council in making decisions on planning applications in your area.

## Who can produce a Neighbourhood Plan?

Only Parish or Town Councils are able to produce Neighbourhood Plans within parished areas, although they can enlist help from members of the local community.

In non-parished areas, a community group comprising at least 21 individuals who live, work or carry out businesses, or are elected members for the area in an area can apply to Knowsley Council to be the Neighbourhood Forum for the area to which the proposed Neighbourhood Plan will relate (known as the Neighbourhood Area).

## What are the main benefits of producing a Neighbourhood Plan?

Whilst Neighbourhood Plans are not compulsory, they give communities the opportunity to establish the requirements for planning within their area.



Preparing a Neighbourhood Plan can therefore help you and the local community play a greater role in shaping future land-use within the local area.

It will bring together residents, businesses, local groups, landowners and developers to share ideas and build a consensus about what needs to be done within the local community.

### **Where can I get more information?**

For further information about Neighbourhood Plans please contact a member of the Local Plan Team:

Tel: 0151 443 2326

Email: [LocalPlan@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:LocalPlan@knowsley.gov.uk).

#### **Neighbourhood Plans can:**

- Decide where and what type of development should happen in your community.
- Decide what the development should look like.
- Promote development for your community in line with the Knowsley Local Plan: Core Strategy.
- Include detailed planning policies for the community.

#### **Neighbourhood Plans cannot:**

- Conflict with the policies in the Knowsley Local Plan: Core Strategy.
- Be used to prevent development.
- Be prepared by anyone other than a Parish or Town Council or a Neighbourhood Forum in non-parished areas.