



Droitwich Spa Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

Case Study – Involving the community

Reference: [March Neighbourhood Plan referendum document](#)

1. Context

March, in Cambridgeshire has explicitly referenced engagement of townspeople and businesses in their Neighbourhood Plan. The text below is taken from the introduction.

2. Extract from the referendum document

March Town Council, as a qualifying body has prepared a Neighbourhood Plan, which is a statutory land use planning document, carrying significant material weight in the planning process.

We are aware that many residents and businesses in the town have concerns about planning and in response to this we have prepared this Plan to ensure that the views of local people are given sufficient weight in the planning process on matters that are important to them.

The making of this Plan has been community led from the outset and is the product of considerable community engagement work, which started with the town wide survey in November 2013, followed by an issues and options consultation in May 2014, a vision, aims and objectives consultation in October 2014, and a Pre-Submission draft Plan consultation in March 2015, all of which provided a good platform to identify the most important planning issues to you, which in turn has helped to shape the eventual scope and content of the Plan.

The Plan has taken longer to prepare than anticipated and this has been due to the volume of comments we received at the various stages of consultation, which have taken time to carefully consider and find the right solutions. **However, the March Neighbourhood Plan proudly carries the brand "March Town Plan by March Town People" and this only serves to reinforce the lengths March Town Council has gone to ensure that March residents and businesses are at the heart of the Plan.**

As it is not the aim of the Plan to replicate material already addressed in the Government's National Planning Policy Framework or Fenland District Council's adopted Local Plan, the proposed policies are limited to those areas where it is felt that more clarity is required in order to ensure the vision, aims and objectives of the Plan are met. The final version of the Plan is fully in accordance with both of these key planning documents, which is essential in meeting the basic conditions of Neighbourhood Plan preparation.