



Droitwich Spa Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2>

1. What is neighbourhood planning?

Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area.

They are able to choose where they want new homes, shops and offices, have their say on what those new buildings should look like and what infrastructure should be provided, and grant planning permission for the new buildings.

Neighbourhood planning provides a powerful set of tools for local people to ensure that they get the right types of development for their community where the ambition of the neighbourhood is aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area.

2. What can communities use neighbourhood planning for?

Local communities can choose to:

- set planning policies through a neighbourhood plan that is used in determining planning applications.
- grant planning permission through Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders for specific development which complies with the order.

Neighbourhood planning is a right, which communities in England can choose to use.

3. What are the benefits of developing a neighbourhood plan or Order?

Neighbourhood planning enables communities to play a much stronger role in shaping the areas in which they live and work and in supporting new development proposals. This is because **unlike the parish, village or town plans that communities may have prepared**, a neighbourhood plan forms part of the development plan (**and with the same legal authority**) and sits alongside the Local Plan prepared by the local planning authority. Decisions on planning applications will be made using both the Local Plan and the neighbourhood plan, and any other material considerations.

Neighbourhood planning provides the opportunity for communities to set out a positive vision for how they want their community to develop over the next 10, 15, 20 years in ways that meet identified local need and make sense for local people. They can put in place planning policies that will help deliver that vision or grant planning permission for the development they want to see.

To help deliver their vision communities that take a proactive approach by drawing up a neighbourhood plan and secure the consent of local people in a referendum, **will benefit from 25% of the revenues from the Community Infrastructure Levy** arising from the development that takes place in their area.