

Neighbourhood Planning Newsletter

Spring 2018



Welcome to our first quarterly Neighbourhood Planning Newsletter which has been prepared to keep you up to date throughout the year with the latest news on Neighbourhood Planning in England including Central Government policy and regulation changes, Grant Funding and other relevant information. The Government (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) has recently reconfirmed its commitment to Neighbourhood Planning through its approval of a £23 million grant funding programme running from April 2018 - March 2022. Groups preparing a Neighbourhood Plan are eligible for between £9,000 - £17,000 which is explained in detail in our Newsletter.

As a team of 20 town planners, designers and community planners we specialise in providing tailored support to Parish and Town Councils and Neighbourhood Forums. Our work ranges from preparing whole Neighbourhood Plans, to acting as a 'critical friend' at key stages of preparing Neighbourhood Plans. In addition to our work on Neighbourhood Plans we can help represent groups as part of the Local Authority Local Plan and Planning Application process, including preparing representations and attending hearings on their behalf.

We are an independently owned company and have offices in London, Manchester and Hampshire so are able to work across the country. I hope you find this Newsletter useful and informative. Please get in touch if you think you may need professional support for your project or if you would like to better understand Government's recent and emerging changes to policy, regulations and grant funding.

Kind Regards,



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RTPI
Chartered Town Planners



Community Engagement for Neighbourhood Plan Development

Since 2011, communities across the country have used Neighbourhood Plans as a means to help improve quality of life and shape changes in the places they live. Over 2,300 Parish and Town Councils and Neighbourhood Forums have embarked on preparing a Plan, and more than 500 have been approved by referendum.

The Government has recently announced changes for policies on Neighbourhood Planning, and the funding and support available for Neighbourhood Planning groups. If you are thinking about preparing a Neighbourhood Plan or have started out, then we hope that this newsletter will prove useful, providing a summary of these changes and how we might help you.

New Grant Funding and Technical Support Programme

Basic Grant

The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has announced a new £23m grant funding programme, running from April 2018 to March 2022.

All groups can apply for funding of £9,000 to support production of a Neighbourhood Plan. If funds were received in previous grant periods (2015-18), you will still be able to apply, as long as the combined value over the two periods does not exceed £9,000.

Additional Grant Funding

A further £8,000 (up from £6,000 in earlier programmes) is also available for those groups facing more 'complex' issues. This additional funding is available where at least one of the following is met:

- You are allocating sites for housing in the Plan.
- You are Including site-specific design codes in your Plan.
- You are a designated business Neighbourhood Plan.
- You are a cluster of three or more parishes writing a single Plan.
- You are a Neighbourhood Area with a population over 25,000.

Technical Support

In addition to the grant funding packages, groups can also apply for 'Technical Support'. This is open to those groups where at least one of the following is met:

- You are allocating sites for housing in the Plan.
- You are Including site-specific design codes in your Plan.
- You are preparing a Neighbourhood Development Order. An Order is different to a Plan in that it can grant planning permission for certain types of development.
- You are an undesignated Forum and need help to get designated so that you can prepare a Neighbourhood Plan.

Three packages of work related to the Technical Support Programme, which are currently used by many groups, remain available:

- Identify and assess the suitability of sites for development.
- Prepare design guides and masterplans showing how and where a place might change in the future.
- Prepare technical reports, such as Strategic Environmental Assessment, which is important where sites are being allocated or where there are important environmental designations in the area.

However, many groups previously used the Technical Support to undertake heritage and character assessments, to help create policies that inform the type of development proposals that might come forward in the future, ensuring they respond to and reflect local identity and character. This package is no longer available.

New Policy Changes and Reforms

Neighbourhood Planning Act

In January this year the Government introduced new planning reforms which:

- Require Local Planning Authorities to notify Neighbourhood Planning groups of any planning applications that have been submitted in the Neighbourhood Plan Area.
- Require Local Planning Authorities to set out what support they will give to groups preparing Neighbourhood Plans. This requirement comes into force at the end of July 2018.
- Make it easier for groups to update any Neighbourhood Plans that have been successfully 'made'. Where proposed changes are relatively minor then these can be made without the need for another referendum.



Community Engagement for Hailsham Neighbourhood Plan



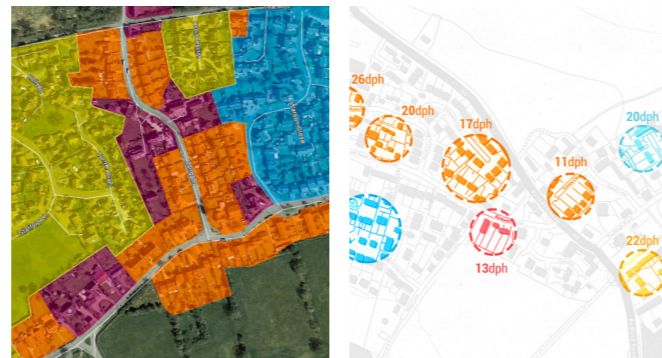
Community Engagement on Conservation Planning

Planning Policy

This places greater emphasis on Neighbourhood Plans.

- Local authorities may be required to provide designated Neighbourhood Planning Areas with a housing target that needs planning for.
- Emphasis is given to local qualities and creating design codes that shape the form of new development in an area.
- Where the Local Authority has identified a need to change Green Belt boundaries, this change could be made through a Neighbourhood Plan.
- Where a Neighbourhood Plan has been successfully 'made' and forms planning policy, and includes policies in relation to housing needs as well as identifying sites for development, greater protection will be given to the Plan against speculative planning applications.

Following the consultation period, the new NPPF is likely to be formally published in the summer. Updated Planning Practice Guidance has also been published for consultation.



Maps prepared for Character Area Assessments

How We Can Help

Troy Planning + Design is a planning and urban design consultancy with a track record of delivering and supporting Neighbourhood Plans, including the provision of technical evidence and community engagement. We can provide you with a tailored service for Neighbourhood Planning projects. Our neighbourhood planning services include:

Consultation & Engagement

We have expertise in community consultation and engagement at each stage of the process, such that it is inclusive, meaningful and well documented. We run and facilitate workshops and exhibitions alongside innovative engagement techniques such as digital polling, visual preference surveys and interactive web solutions.

Tailored Advice & Support

We empower Neighbourhood Planning groups by giving them the tools needed to develop a Plan which reflects the vision and objectives of the community. We provide support to Parish and Town Councils and Neighbourhood Forums in relation to representing these groups on Local Plans and Planning Applications including preparing representations and attending hearings on their behalf. We prepare a wide range of supporting documents including Basic Conditions Statements.

Policy Writing & Evidence

We help prepare policies that seek to deliver your objectives but which can stand up to scrutiny at examination and also be implemented. We work with groups to help identify and collect the evidence to justify policies.

Design

We undertake character assessments to identify the qualities of different places, the scale and form of development, streets and open spaces, to help generate locally responsive planning policies. We also undertake urban design analysis, village design statements, prepare masterplans and design codes to help shape future change. With an extensive experience in visual design we create convincing documents and develop brands for our clients.

Technical Assessments

We are able to prepare housing needs and site assessments, sustainability appraisals, strategic environmental assessments, infrastructure needs and viability assessments to help support and underpin neighbourhood plans.

Proposals Maps

We prepare intuitive and interactive maps at all scales that communicate data-backed spatial analysis and aspirations.

Aerial View in Edenfield. Photo Credits: John Davies

Hailsham Neighbourhood Plan Shortlisted for Award



Troy Planning + Design has recently been shortlisted in the Neighbourhood Planning category of the prestigious Planning Awards.

The awards, which celebrate excellence in planning and placemaking, recognise our work on the Hailsham Neighbourhood Plan. We have been working with Hailsham Town Council over the past two years to help develop a Plan that seeks to ensure that new growth is of the highest quality, strengthening and enhancing the quality of the town centre.

The Plan establishes a series of overarching principles, including the idea of the 'ten-minute town', focusing on enhancing access and mobility for all, promoting mixed-use development and delivering supporting infrastructure.

The Plan has been informed by and responds to extensive consultation, including the use of visual preference surveys to draw out key messages for design.

The Neighbourhood Plan is set within the context of an emerging Local Plan which establishes ambitious growth targets for Hailsham, but where local environmental constraints need considering to help deliver a locally responsive form of development. To this end, Troy Planning + Design has also undertaken a Character Area Assessment, drawing out the positive features and characteristics of the area and which can be used to inform future growth.



Where We Have Worked

Troy Planning + Design has provided support and advice to more than twenty Neighbourhood Plan Groups, Parish Councils, Town Councils and Neighbourhood Forums including:

- Kingswood (Gloucestershire)
- Eastington (Gloucestershire)
- Hailsham (East Sussex)
- Edenfield (Lancashire)
- Chalfont St Peter (Buckinghamshire)
- Chalfont St Giles (Buckinghamshire)
- Redbourn (Hertfordshire)
- Hadley Wood (London)
- Shipley (West Sussex)
- Milton Ernest (Bedfordshire)
- Petersfield (South Downs National Park)
- Greatham Voice (South Downs National Park)
- Easebourne (South Downs National Park)
- Knightsbridge (London)
- Mayfair (London)
- Fradley (Staffordshire)
- Harlestone (Northamptonshire)



Engage
We offer the help you need in order to achieve the best plan for your community.



Innovate
We provide a full suite of technical support to enable a brighter future for your neighbourhood.



Deliver
We create sustainable solutions that balance the needs of your community with development.



Please get in touch for an informal discussion



Feel free to email or call us for an informal chat. We would be delighted to learn more about your project and how we might help.

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