

Community Led Plans provide a firm foundation for Neighbourhood Plans and other types of planning such as Emergency Plans and Valley Plans.

There is no legal requirement for communities to produce any of these but they can be beneficial when planning for the future and getting your voices heard.

Community Led Planning

A Community Led Plan (CLP) is a plan for the community, by the community.

It sets out a vision for the future based on widespread local consultation, with actions for how this can be achieved.

CLPs can cover anything the community feels is important to them, from more notice boards around the village, through to the creation of affordable housing.

Community Led Planning produces an action plan, owned and delivered by the community, with support as appropriate from local authorities and other agencies.

CLPs are usually initiated by the Parish/Town Council and can cover one or more parishes.

ACT can support communities producing CLPs and has a range of resources available including; Guidance Sheets, Case Studies, and articles in our ACT Gazette newsletter.

These are available on the ACT website here: www.cumbriaaction.org.uk

Neighbourhood Planning

Neighbourhood Planning was introduced through the 2011 Localism Act and focuses solely on spatial planning issues i.e. the use of land and buildings.

Neighbourhood Planning is led by the community but requires expert professional advice and support. It is a statutory process involving external examination and assessment.

Neighbourhood Planning can:

- Decide where and what type of development should happen in an area.
- Promote more development than is set out in the Local Plan / Development Framework.
- Include policies, including design standards, which take precedence over existing local planning policies.
- Only be prepared by a Parish or Town Council or a 'Neighbourhood Forum' set up for the purpose.

Neighbourhood Planning cannot:

Conflict with policies in the existing Local Plan / Development Framework or be used to prevent the development this proposes.

Community Led Planning

- Can cover any issue which is important to a community
- Includes an action plan for the local area
- Should be based on widespread consultation

Neighbourhood Planning

- Sets out what type of development should happen in a community
- Needs to conform with local and national planning policies
- Should be based on widespread community consultation

Community Led Plans can provide a foundation for:

- Neighbourhood Plans, which cover spatial planning issues (use of land / buildings)
- Valley Plans, which balance land management and the needs of the community
- Emergency Plans, which help communities cope with, and recover from, emergencies

Neighbourhood Planning produces either a 'Neighbourhood Plan' to sit alongside existing planning policy with the local planning authority; a 'Neighbourhood Development Order' or 'Community Right to Build Order' which grant planning permission locally without the need to submit applications to the local planning authority.

A Neighbourhood Plan might include

- The development of housing and bringing derelict housing back into use
- Provision for businesses to expand,
- Transport (including roads, cycling, walking)
- The development of schools, leisure facilities and community centres
- The design of buildings
- Protection and creation of open space

If your Local Plan / Development Framework already reflects local needs and aspirations, there may be no need to produce a Neighbourhood Plan for your area.

Producing a Neighbourhood Plan

If you already have a Community Led Plan, parts of it could be used as the foundation for a Neighbourhood Plan. As it is based on local consultation, these will already have backing from the community and are therefore more likely to be supported in a referendum.

If you do want to produce a Neighbourhood Plan there are eight steps:

Getting Started

Look at local and national planning policies, decide who to involve and how to involve the wider community. Involve your planning authority.

Identify the issues

What are the strengths and weaknesses of the area? Start to consult people and refer to your CLP if you have one.

Develop a vision and objectives

Decide what you want your community to be like in the future and set out how the Neighbourhood Plan could achieve this.

Generate options for your draft plan

Consider options for the type of development you wish to see and ways of using land.

Preparing a draft

Set out policies to help achieve your vision.

Consultation and submission

There will need to be public consultation on the draft plan and when any changes have been made, the plan will need to be submitted to the local planning authority.

Independent examination

The planning authority will appoint an independent examiner who will ensure the Neighbourhood Plan conforms with European obligations and conforms with national and local planning policies.

Referendum and adoption

If it passes examination, the local planning authority will arrange a referendum on the Plan. If over 50 per cent of those voting are in favour of the Plan it will be adopted.

"We couldn't have produced our Neighbourhood Plan without our Community Plan"

Torver Resident

More information

Locality www.mycommunity.org.uk/programme/neighbourhood-planning/

Department for Communities and Local Government: www.communities.gov.uk

ACT may be able to help you with your consultation: www.cumbriaaction.org.uk



This guidance sheet has been produced in partnership with CALC

For more information please contact ACTion with Communities in Cumbria on Tel: 01228 817224 or visit our website: www.cumbriaaction.org.uk

ACT champions community and rural issues

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