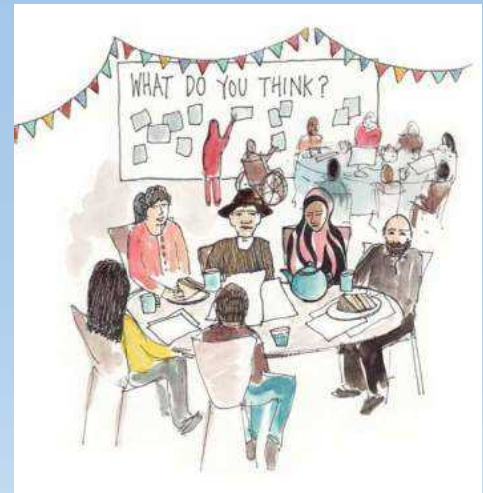


# Neighbourhood Plans

## What's it all about?

- Brought in by the Coalition Govt in 2011.
- Born out of the idea of 'Localism', giving local residents a greater say in development that goes on in their areas
- Parish Council owned
- A community-led planning document that will influence development in your area over the next 15 or so years



## Why do it?

- Gives community a voice in decision making.
- Once adopted, the policies become part of the development Plan- holds legal weight in decisions.
- More focused- Local Plan covers the District
- Establishes a dialogue within the community.
- 25 % CIL money for adopted plans



## What CAN'T they do?

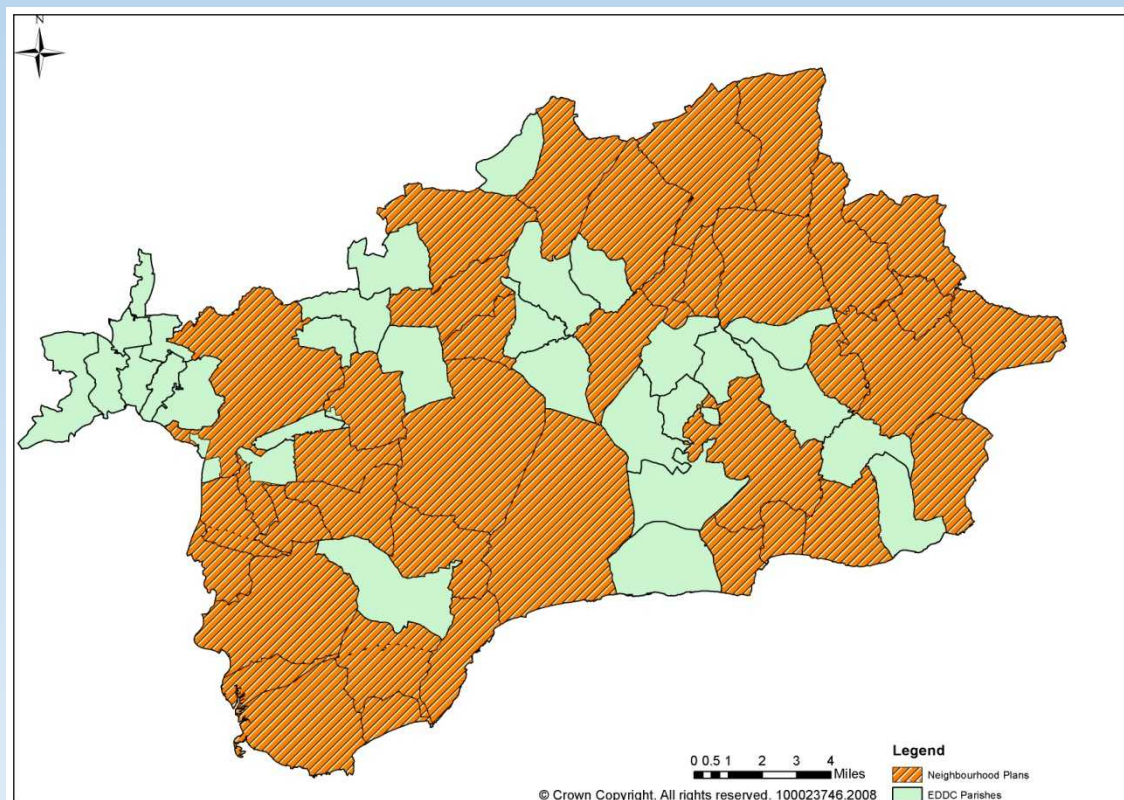
- they cannot be used to stop growth but can help inform, direct and shape development
- They cannot propose lower levels of housing/growth than that in the Local Plan.
- Can't have policies on non-land use topics but can identify community priorities. e.g. Setting up car club, promoting public transport needs etc.

## Also must comply with:

- European Directives/legislation
- National Planning Policy Framework
- East Devon Local Plan

## Neighbourhood planning in East Devon

- 39 Neighbourhood Areas
- 2 Submission Plans- 3 or 4 pre- submission.
- 1 adopted Plan- Lymptstone



## What's the process?

- **Stage 1- Designating the Neighbourhood Area**
  - Parish Council has to decide the appropriate area for the Neighbourhood Plan to cover
  - In rural areas a presumption that this will follow the parish boundary.
  - Fill out application form on website
  - Submit to EDDC
  - Publicise proposal
  - Area designated!



## What's the process?

- **Stage 2- Establishing a steering group**
  - Comprises Town/Parish councillors and members of the public.
  - Representative of community.
  - Meets regularly and drives forward progress of plan.
  - Developing and monitoring the project plan



## What's the process?

- **Stage 3- Reviewing and gathering evidence**
  - Creating a parish profile- analysing demographic data, population size, historical development etc
  - Reviewing existing information related to area, e.g. Open space studies, SHLAA data- East Devon District Council can help with this!
  - As process continues this will be added to as views are sought from the community.

## What's the process?

- Stage 4- Consulting the community
  - Getting community views to assess aspirations
  - Could include questionnaires, workshops, flyers, information on websites, exhibitions etc.





## What's the process?

- Stage 5- Developing aims and objectives
  - Analysing the data from evidence gathering and consultation steps to produce overarching aims of what the plan is to achieve.
  - Expressed in a series of statements. e.g. Ensuring new development is suitably designed, encouraging tree planting schemes, protecting particular open spaces etc.
  - Should go through another stage of consultation to ensure the community supports them.



## What's the process?

- Stage 6- Drafting the plan
  - Pulling together all of the information from the previous stages.
  - Producing planning policies to support the aims and objectives
  - Very important as these are what planning applications will be judged against!



## What's the process?

- Stage 7- Submission to Local Authority
  - Submit to East Devon who will check to ensure the necessary legal steps have been followed and it is in conformity with local and national policy.
  - Local Authority will then publicise the plan and consult with any interested parties.



## What's the process?

- Stage 8- Examination
  - Local Authority will then appoint independent planning professional to examine the contents.
  - He/she will check that the plan has met the basic conditions.
  - Paid for by Local Authority
  - He will produce a report suggesting amendments and either suggesting that the plan should or should not proceed to referendum.



## What's the process?

- Stage 9- Referendum
  - If successful examination, then Local Authority will organise referendum for the plan.

If greater than 50% in favour of Plan-  
**Plan Adopted!**

**Approximately 2 years from start to finish.**



# How East Devon is helping NP groups

- Producing bespoke guidance notes at various stages of the process on website (collecting evidence, engaging the community)
- Creating document templates including basic conditions statement, consultation statement, project plan.
- Dedicated officer always being available to offer advice to groups.
  - Can produce maps
  - Help write policies
  - Feedback on questionnaires
  - Attending steering group sessions.
- Regular Newsletters
- Advising on any national updates.

