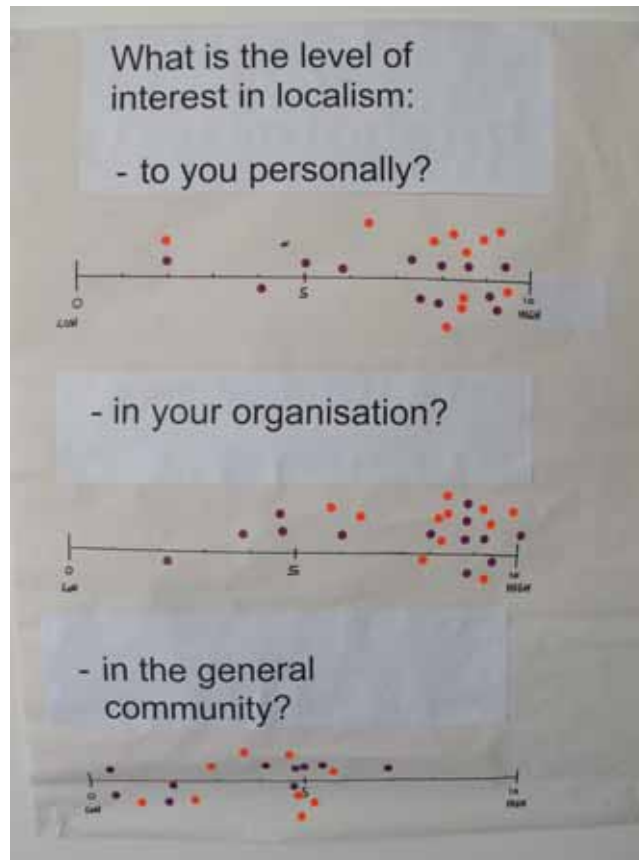


# Bath & North East Somerset Council



## Neighbourhood Planning Focus Group 1

18<sup>th</sup> August 2011

## Report

## Contents

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Appendix 1	Attendance list
Appendix 2	Starter/Closing activity - Impression of Localism and Neighbourhood Planning
Appendix 3	Presentations

# Neighbourhood Planning Focus Group 1

The purpose of this report is to provide Bath & North East Somerset Council and those who attended with a record of the focus group. This Focus Group took place on the evening of the 18<sup>th</sup> August 2011 and was part of the early stage consultation on the new Neighbourhood Planning Protocol.

Key points of discussion and the activities undertaken are outlined in this report together with a record of the presentations given and consultation materials.

## 1 Context

1.1 The aims of the focus group are as follows:

- Inform preparation of the new Council policy on community involvement in planning (including new localism duties)
- Find out what's useful for you as end users and to build upon your experiences to date
- Inform Council members of community view

## 2 Process

2.1 The focus group was organised and led by Cleo Newcombe-Jones, Liz Tu and Neil Best, Planning Policy Officers.

## 3 Programme

3.1 The focus group commenced with a starter activity, which aimed to gauge initial reactions to a series of questions related to Localism and Neighbourhood Planning. The nature of the Neighbourhood Planning Protocol and the aims of the focus group were introduced before a presentation on Localism and Neighbourhood Planning. There was then discussion in groups regarding a series of scenarios for the Neighbourhood Planning Protocol before the session closed with participants revisiting the starter activity.

## 4 Attendance

4.1 The workshop was attended by 15 participants including representatives of Parish Council's, Town Council's and Residents' Associations in Bath. A politics student was also in attendance. A full attendance list is included as **Appendix 1**.



## 5 Record of workshop

5.1 This part of the report will outline the detail of the event, including the presentations given and includes a summary of the table based discussions during the focus group.

### *Introduction and starter activity*

5.2 Cleo Newcombe-Jones, opened the event, welcoming the attendees and introducing the planning policy officers. She introduced the starter activity which is included at **Appendix 2**. This activity aimed to provide a snapshot of opinions on Localism and Neighbourhood Planning at the start of the focus group (by placing purple dots to indicate responses), and was also repeated at the end of the session when participants were asked to revisit the exercise (this time using orange dots).



### *Introduction to the Localism Bill and Neighbourhood Planning*

5.3 Following the starter activity, Cleo Newcombe-Jones outlined the programme for the evening and the aims of the focus group. Neil Best then gave a presentation (included as **Appendix 3**) giving an overview of the Localism Bill and Neighbourhood Planning. This included:

- The new framework for planning
- National Planning Policy Framework
- Localism Bill
- What is a Neighbourhood Plan?
- Neighbourhood Development Orders
- Community Right to Build Orders
- Process for developing a Neighbourhood Plan

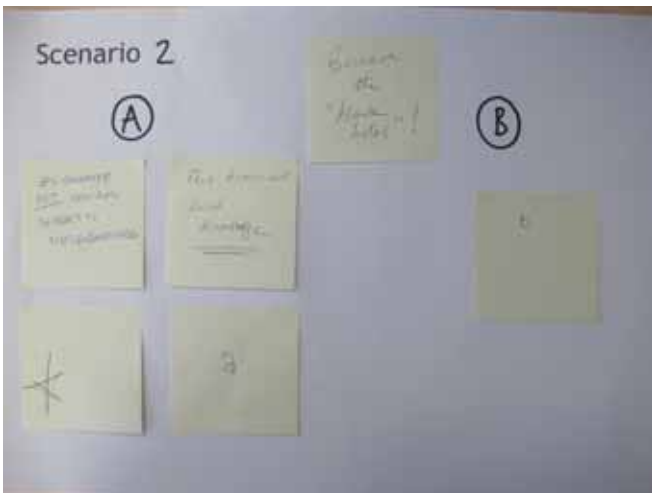
### *Introduction to the Neighbourhood Planning Protocol*

5.4 Liz Tu then presented how B&NES are responding to the new requirements in terms of planning (presentation also included at **Appendix 3**). This included:

- What will the Neighbourhood Planning Protocol include?
- Programme

The discussion activity was then introduced. The group was divided into three smaller groups to discuss several scenarios which could be options for the Neighbourhood Planning Protocol (scenarios are shown on presentation in **Appendix 3**). This was a quick fire debate, with around 5 minutes discussion per question. A planning policy officer sat with each group to take notes and the group added opinions on post-its to worksheets such as the following:

Example scenario worksheet



Smaller group discussion



The issues raised during the discussion are summarised in **Table 1** below. Please note in some cases substantive comments were not made on each scenario.

*Table 1: Summary of discussion on scenarios*

Scenario 1	How Should the Council Respond to the Localism Bill?
<p>A - Council re-empts any central government guidance and tries to influence the process</p>	<p>Table 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should keep up with and ahead of the game</li> <li>• Need information on what or what is likely, such as a draft response/approach</li> <li>• Should pre-empt the Government</li> <li>• Proactive approach is better, better not to be a follower</li> <li>• Should be able to influence the process to make it work better</li> <li>• What is all this (the Localism Bill/NP) trying to solve?</li> </ul> <p>Table 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WHS makes Bath unique - Exceptionalism</li> <li>• Need to act through the LGA to achieve the necessary weight</li> <li>• Be prepared</li> <li>• B&amp;NES should do what it can</li> <li>• The unparished area of Bath is going (like other such areas) to have a lot of difficulty in articulating localism proposals properly - important to lead the way = DCLG too remote to understand the problem</li> </ul>

	<p>Table 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council should try to influence the process</li> <li>• Communication route needs to be clear</li> </ul>
<p>B - Council waits for national guidance</p>	<p>Table 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should do a bit of both 'A' with 'B'</li> </ul> <p>Table 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B&amp;NES is a small Council and cannot afford to waste effort of having to redo this work</li> </ul> <p>Table 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is there an option C? Some of the table not convinced by either B&amp;NES or the Government</li> </ul>
<p><b>Scenario 2</b></p> <p>A - The Council encourages neighbourhood planning</p>	<p><b>How should be Council help the community achieve their aspirations?</b></p> <p>Table 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue of coverage across the District -beware the black holes</li> <li>• Is better as can draw out local knowledge but also a risk this builds on local prejudices and lack of local knowledge</li> <li>• Should be encouraged but support to neighbourhoods provided</li> <li>• Should be encouraged as better results for communities</li> <li>• Council represented well now, worried about loss of Council power and democracy</li> <li>• Need skills- Council needs to support with expertise</li> <li>• What about the consistency between NPs/NDOs coming through at different scales in Bath?</li> </ul> <p>Table 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Dept should do the response</li> <li>• Is there a parallel with grant applications? The funder advises applicants whether their idea is eligible or whether there are other options.</li> <li>• Sequencing important - may need a NP as an interim measure (what is the likely timeframe for doing a Neighbourhood Plan?) while the new higher level development plan elements move into place</li> <li>• Policy &amp; Partnerships should undertake the encouraging role - getting people interested in neighbourhood planning process. Whereas Planning role is related to more specialist technical advice</li> </ul> <p>Table 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All supportive of A</li> <li>• The Council should listen to the opinions of the Parish/Town Council</li> </ul>

<p><b>B - The Council encourages use of existing routes in the first instance - planning application/involvement in planning policy creation</b></p>	<p>Table 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phase into A as the Act clarifies</li> <li>• If time critical is neighbourhood planning more responsive?</li> </ul> <p>Table 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No support for B</li> </ul>
<p><b>Scenario 3</b></p> <p><b>A - The Council proactively identify Neighbourhood Forums in the city of Bath e.g. on a ward basis</b></p>	<p><b>How should a Neighbourhood Forum come forward in Bath?</b></p> <p>Table 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Majority supportive of 'A'</li> <li>• Concern about the areas between NF's that come forward organically particularly as are likely to start from a single issue</li> <li>• Could follow 'A' but also accommodate 'organic' if they groups come forward</li> <li>• Gives Bath the structure that the rest of the District has</li> <li>• Time horizons are different in Bath than in Parish Councils</li> </ul> <p>Table 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council should promote a dialogue with residents and other interests and not simply identify Neighbourhood Forums</li> <li>• Need to follow boundaries of existing residents associations - otherwise chaos</li> <li>• Residents associations may come and go and exist in cycles of activity so this might be an issue</li> <li>• Wards are not a sensible basis for neighbourhood areas (e.g. Lyncombe/Widcombe) - this was one of the factors that led to the establishment of Greenway residents association</li> <li>• Ward basis might be too wide in the city centre - this will be one of the most complex areas as businesses likely to come forward first</li> <li>• Concern about who 21 people might be - ulterior motives etc</li> <li>• How will the Council respond to requests from businesses and how can the interests of residents continue to be protected - some of the local business groups are quite organised and so could be front-runners</li> <li>• Ward basis - would not necessarily be that effective - might work a bit better for outer wards but certainly not more central ones</li> <li>• Those with an interest in Bath should be able to express their interest but decisions should be made locally</li> <li>• Can existing residents associations and groups be a basis for this?</li> <li>• More discussion with groups and residents within Bath needed</li> <li>• Super-prescriptive criteria might need to be considered for Bath city centre/River corridor</li> </ul> <p>Table 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All supportive of A</li> <li>• Would have to be on a Ward basis - this is the only feasible way could lead to unsustainable areas if not on a Ward basis</li> </ul>

<p><b>B - Allow neighbourhood forums in the city to come forward organically</b></p>	<p>Table 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neighbourhoods in Bath often have no relationship to the wards</li> </ul> <p>Table 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This could be chaotic and issues could arise</li> <li>• Who constitutes these neighbourhood forums is the main area of concern rather than the process - although a more formal process could help influence this</li> </ul> <p>Table 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No support for this option</li> </ul>
<p><b>Scenario 4</b></p> <p><b>A - Formal detailed application process to a Council committee and agreed code of conduct</b></p>	<p><b>How should the Council designate a Neighbourhood Forum?</b></p> <p>Table 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Majority would favour 'A'</li> <li>• Should be full Council control to designate</li> </ul> <p>Table 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large number of residents even in the centre of Bath - 5000 in Abbey and 5000 in Kingsmead ward</li> <li>• Must have a minimum criteria for applications</li> <li>• Bound to get a wide range of applications in Bath</li> <li>• What about where more than one group want to lead this process - how will a decision be made?</li> <li>• Key thing is to avoid spurious NFs being promoted by developers, landowners, supermarkets etc</li> <li>• This kind of guidance is needed</li> </ul> <p>Table 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for some kind of protocol - a need for formal boundaries</li> </ul>
<p><b>B - More light touch designation process</b></p>	<p>Table 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could be Divisional Director level</li> </ul> <p>Table 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not felt that this would be appropriate needs to be more formal</li> </ul>
<p><b>Scenario 5</b></p> <p><b>A - Council issues rigid guidance about how to do Neighbourhood Planning</b></p>	<p><b>How much guidance should the Council issue on Neighbourhood Plans</b></p> <p>Table 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Might not be that useful - still guidance but should not be prescriptive</li> <li>• Could help to iron out issues before go off track but other support should minimise this</li> </ul>



<p><b>B - Council issues limited guidance about how to do neighbourhood planning</b></p>	<p>Table 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unanimous support for 'B'</li> <li>• Council provides limited guidelines and provides support</li> <li>• Should be a range of examples</li> <li>• Council should facilitate the examination</li> </ul> <p>Table 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will be more appropriate as every area will have different issues</li> <li>• Preference for limited guidance otherwise everyone will waste time</li> <li>• Lots of advice, no rules! Guidelines not a rule book preferred</li> <li>• Should issue information about other projects going on in B&amp;NES</li> <li>• Limited guidance alongside practical support is the most useful</li> <li>• B&amp;NES should clearly specify what support it will offer - as this will be an important consideration for those considering doing a Neighbourhood Plan e.g. admin/professional support and in what way</li> </ul> <p>Table 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited guidance preferred</li> </ul>
<p><b>C - No guidance issued</b></p>	<p>Table 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a non-starter</li> </ul>
<p><b>Scenario 6</b></p>	
<p><b>A - Guidelines principally aimed at new plans reflecting legislation</b></p>	<p><b>Existing Parish/Community Plans - How should the Council respond?</b></p> <p>Table 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Majority support 'A'</li> <li>• Potentially loses valuable elements of Parish Plans</li> <li>• New process, new ideas, common baseline</li> </ul>
<p><b>B - Council outlines a plan conversion process</b></p>	<p>Table 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As long as valuable elements of existing PC plans survive</li> <li>• Shouldn't override things that have been democratically decided.</li> </ul> <p>Table 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keynsham TC would like to revise existing plan if proceed to a neighbourhood plan rather than start from a blank sheet</li> <li>• This does demonstrate some bias towards parished areas - so should make sure that this does not detract from the new arrangements that are being introduced</li> </ul>

	<p>Table 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Midsomer Norton TC expressed concern that the present Parish Plan would not be considered a Neighbourhood Plan unless it went through a separate examination. A plan conversion process would in this regard be useful</li> </ul>
<p>C - Council issues statement giving steer on weight of existing plans in planning considerations</p>	<p>Table 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• this might well be useful</li> <li>• Should be a mixture of 'A' and 'C' or 'B' and 'C'</li> </ul> <p>Table 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need not too distant B&amp;NES resource from the more difficult area of implementation</li> <li>• Will the Council change its advice - it probably should do</li> </ul>
<p><b>Scenario 7</b></p> <p>A - Provide focused assistance e.g. dedicated officer</p>	<p><b>What level of assistance should the Council make available?</b></p> <p>Table 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suitable for the 'keen' Parish Councils</li> </ul> <p>Table 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A flavoured with B</li> <li>• Definitely need focused assistance in Bath = central/outer/resident/business areas</li> <li>• Some professional advice might need to be charged for. But unlike the parished areas there may be a lack of funds.</li> </ul> <p>Table 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keen for a mixture of a and b</li> </ul>
<p>B - Provide standardised assistance e.g. templates and generic examples</p>	<p>Table 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the less keen Parish Councils</li> <li>• Need 'good' appropriate examples. These should be of a similar area with similar issues with access to a designated officer as required.</li> </ul> <p>Table 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will the Council publicise proposals at an early stage as with planning applications?</li> <li>• Without A this is not very useful</li> </ul> <p>Table 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keen for a mixture of a and b</li> </ul>

<p><b>C - Provide limited assistance - signpost to other national guidance</b></p>	<p>Table 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should guide to national guidance linked with appropriate examples ('B')</li> <li>• Yes but in addition to 'A' and 'B'</li> </ul> <p>Table 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Much of this can be found via websearch anyway</li> <li>• More information on projects being undertaken locally would be more useful as these are more difficult to find out about</li> </ul>
--	---

## 5 Conclusion

### *Next Steps*

6.1 The next steps are as follows:

- This Workshop Report is to be distributed to all attendees of the focus group on **26<sup>th</sup> August 2011** and to all Ward Councillors w/c 29<sup>th</sup> August 2011
- A follow-up focus group is planned for Oct 2011
- A public consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Planning Protocol will follow in Winter 2011.

6.2 The results of the first focus group will inform initial drafting of the Neighbourhood Planning Protocol which will be the focus of the discussion at the second focus group meeting.

### *Thank you*

6.3 We would like to thank all those who gave up their time to be involved in the focus group, your input is invaluable and we look forward to the next focus group.

### Appendix 1 - Attendance list 18<sup>th</sup> August 2011

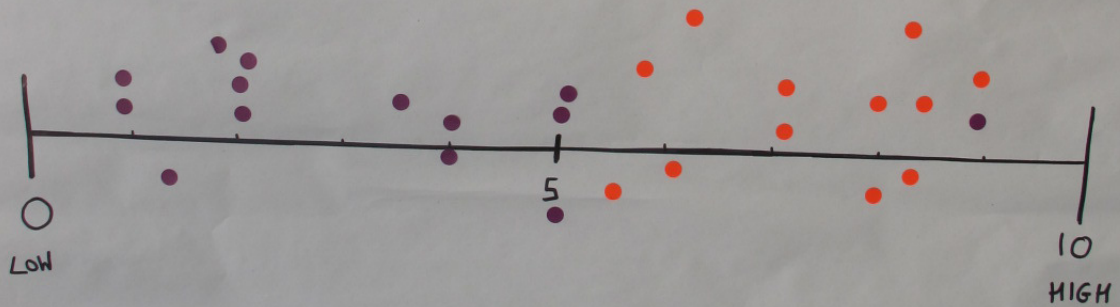
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Representative</b>
Batheaston Parish Council	Vito Pecchia
Batheaston Parish Council	David Robins
Claremont Resident's Association	John Ingham
Combe Hay Parish Council	Peter Duppa-Miller
Federation of Bath Resident's Association	Henry Brown
Federation of Bath Resident's Association	Mark O'Sullivan
Keynsham Town Council	Clive Fricker
Keynsham Town Council	Dawn Drury
Midsomer Norton Town Council	Pete Moccock
Midsomer Norton Town Council	Steve Plumley
Paulton Parish Council	Liz Hardman
Paulton Parish Council	Ken Ellis
Radstock Town Council	Fflyff McLaren
Saltford Parish Council	Kevin Reeves
Student	Stephen Corrigan

## Appendix 2 - Impressions of Localism and Neighbourhood Planning

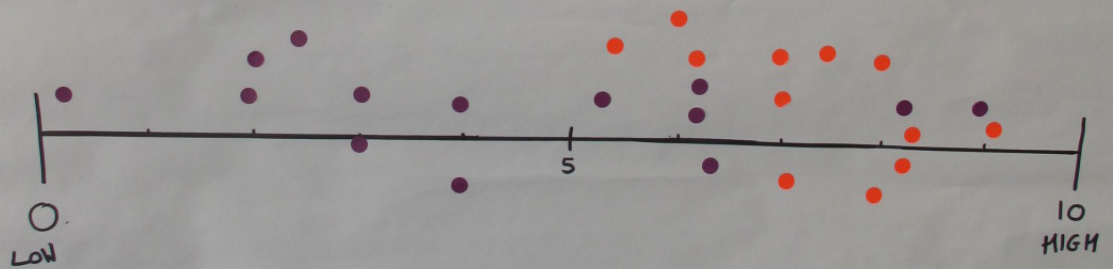
**Purple dots** = Initial impressions at  
start of focus group

**Orange dots** = Impressions at end of  
focus group

On a scale of 1-10  
how would you rate  
your knowledge of  
localism?



On a scale of 1-10 how would you rate your knowledge of neighbourhood planning?

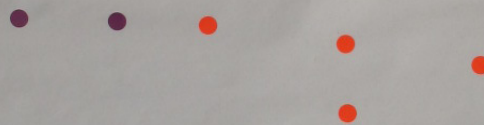


Please indicate which of the following you have been involved in:

Responding to planning applications



Developing a Community Plan



Developing a Parish Plan



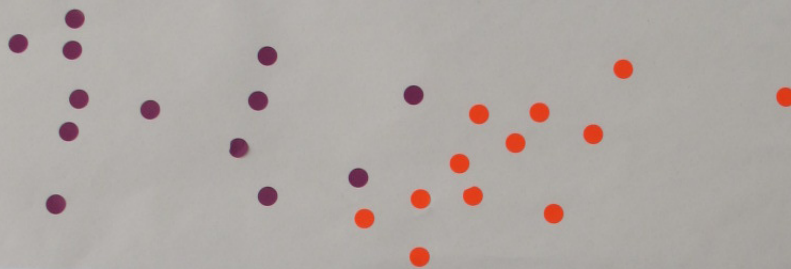
Attending consultation event





Please mark the terms you have heard of:

Neighbourhood Plan



Neighbourhood Forum



Neighbourhood Development Order



Community Right to Build



Placemaking Plan



Parish Plan

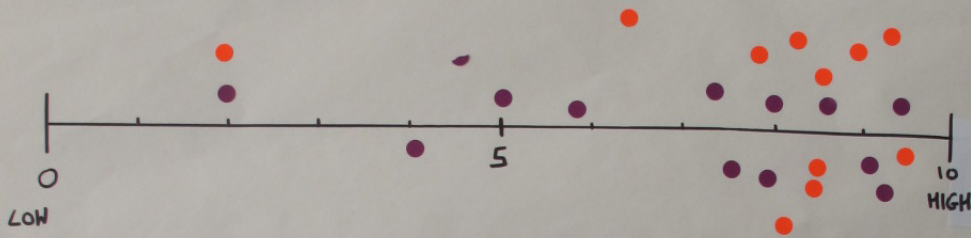


Community Plan

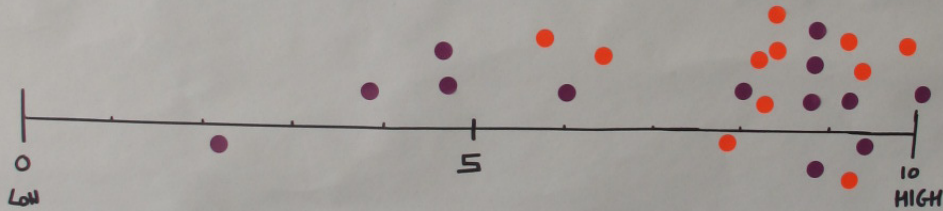


What is the level of interest in localism:

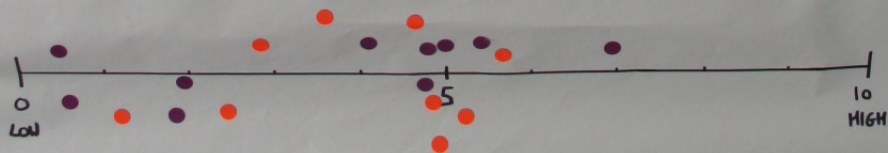
- to you personally?



- in your organisation?



- in the general community?



In terms of neighbourhood  
planning, in your view is  
BANES:

embracing the new approach?

still weighing up the options?

adopting a conservative  
approach?

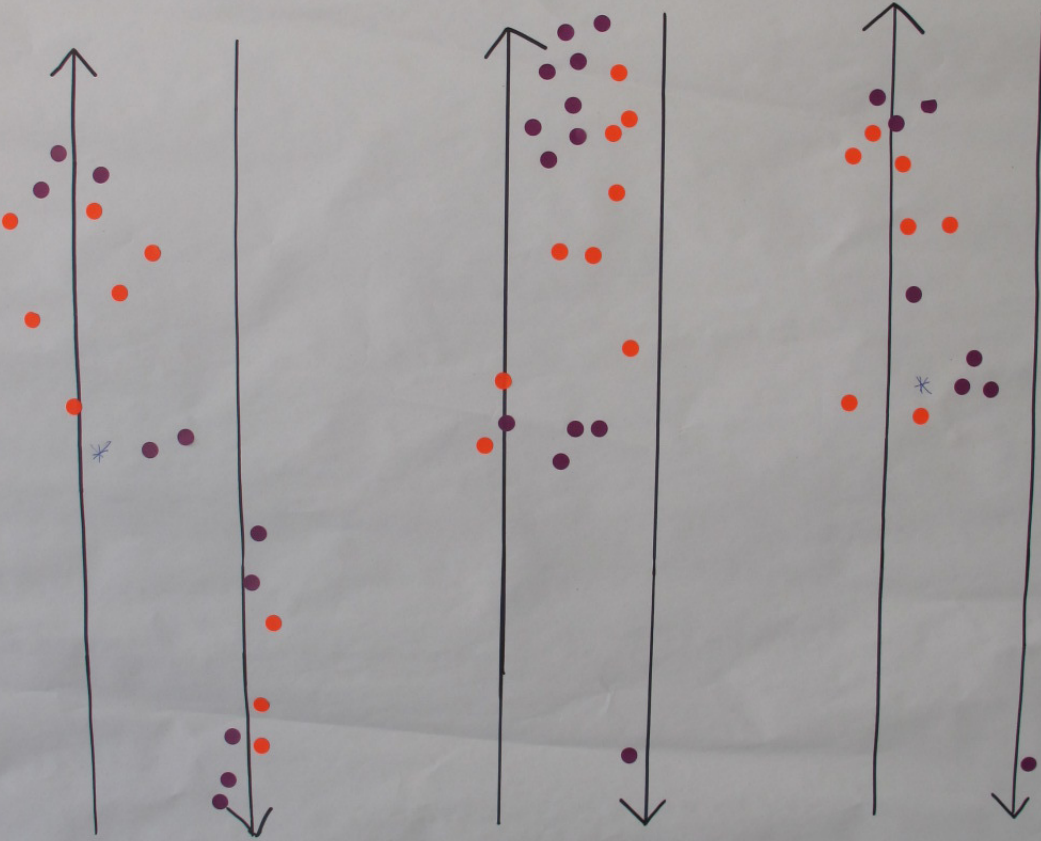
What is your impression of the level of power shift?

Local Authority

Neighbourhood

Developer

More



Less

Are you interested in producing your own Neighbourhood Plan?

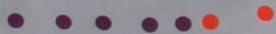
YES



NO



Need to know more



Please add any other views on  
localism to be passed on to  
BANES Councillors

KEEP UP  
THE  
CONSULTATION

# Appendix 3 - Presentations



18<sup>th</sup> August 2011

# Neighbourhood Planning Focus Group

Bath & North East  
Somerset Council

**L D F**  
Bath and North East Somerset  
Local Development Framework

# Neighbourhood Planning Quick Poll

## Starter Activity - 15 mins

# Focus Group Aims

- Inform preparation of the new Council policy on community involvement in planning (including new localism duties)
- Find out what's useful for you as end users and to build upon your experiences to date
- Produce a brief report to feedback to Ward Councillors

# Outline

- Overview of the Localism Bill
- Introduction to the Neighbourhood Planning Protocol
- Testing scenarios - Discussion Activity
- 7.15pm Closing activity

# Introductions...

18<sup>th</sup> August 2011

# The Localism Bill and Neighbourhood Planning

Neil Best  
Planning Policy

# Content

- The new framework for planning
- National Planning Policy Framework
- Localism Bill
- What is a Neighbourhood Plan?
- Neighbourhood Development Orders
- Community Right to Build Orders
- Process for developing a Neighbourhood Plan
- What is a Neighbourhood?
- B&NES Neighbourhood Planning Protocol

# The new framework for planning

National	<b>National Planning Policy Framework</b>	Central Government
Functional Economic Area	<b>Business Plan</b>	Local Enterprise Partnership
Local	<b>Local Plan/Core Strategy</b>	Local Authority
Neighbourhood	<b>Neighbourhood Plans</b>	Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum



# The new framework for planning

National	<b>National Planning Policy Framework</b>	Central Government
Functional Economic Area	<b>Business Plan</b>	Local Enterprise Partnership
Local	<b>Local Plan/Core Strategy</b>	Local Authority
Neighbourhood	<b>Neighbourhood Plans</b>	Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum

# National Planning Policy Framework



# Neighbourhood Plans

National	<b>National Planning Framework</b>	Central Government
Functional Economic Area	<b>Business Plan</b>	Local Enterprise Partnership
Local	<b>Local Plan/Core Strategy</b>	Local Authority
<b>Neighbourhood</b>	<b>Neighbourhood Plans</b>	<b>Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum</b>

# Localism Bill 2010-11

**Type of Bill:** Government Bill

**Sponsors:** Eric Pickles  
Communities and Local Government

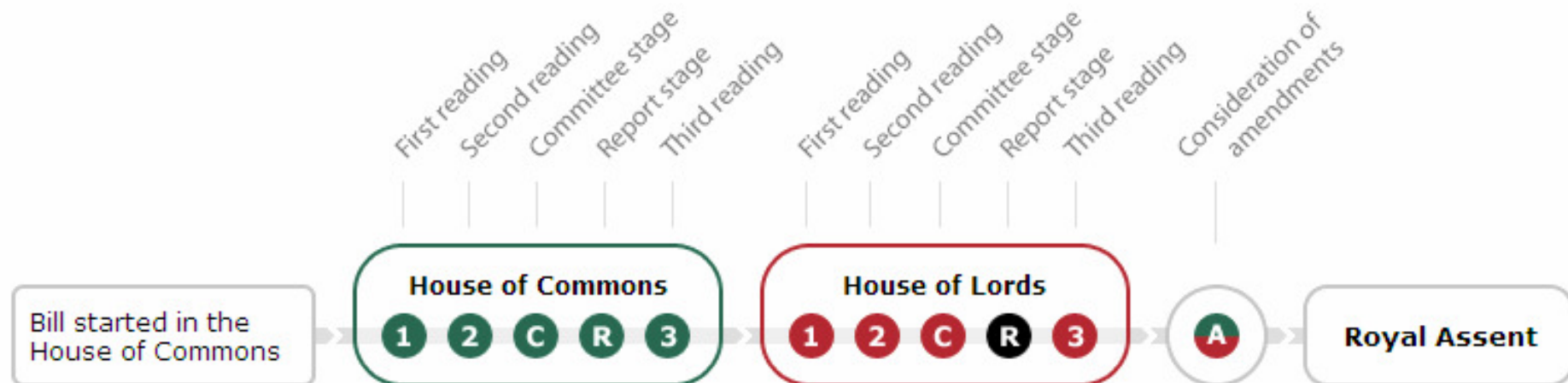
Baroness Hanham  
Communities and Local Government

**READ THIS BILL**



[Latest Bill](#)  
[Explanatory Notes](#)  
[All Bill documents](#)

## Progress of the Bill



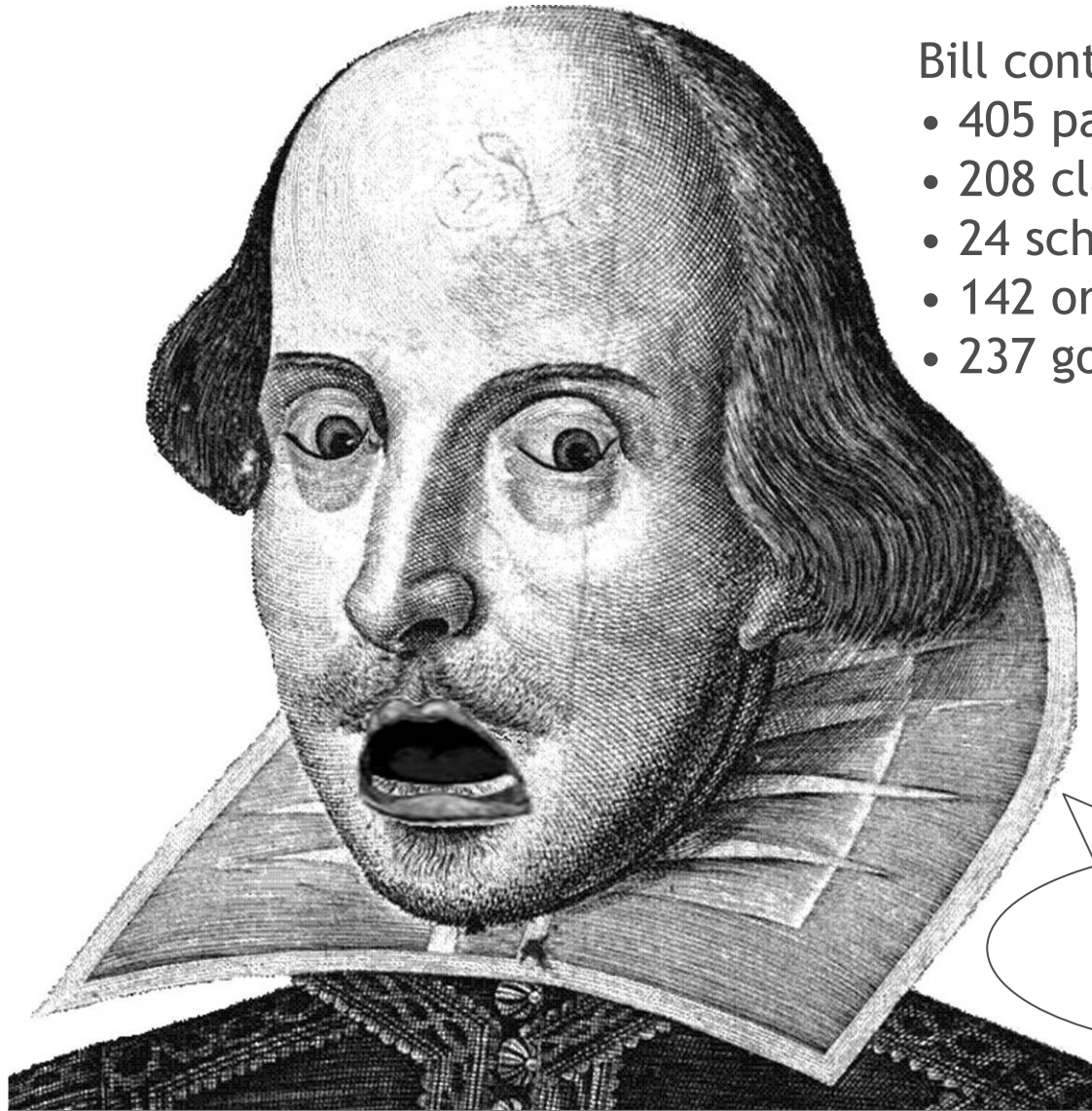
### Last event

**C** Committee: 10th sitting: House of Lords 20 July, 2011 | 20.07.2011

### Next event

**R** Report stage: House of Lords | 05.09.2011

# Localism Bill: not nearly as interesting as Shakespeare



Bill contains around:

- 405 pages,
- 208 clauses,
- 24 schedules
- 142 order and regulation making powers
- 237 government amendments

Brevity is the  
soul of wit!

# Localism Bill 2010-11

**Type of Bill:** Government Bill

**Sponsors:** Eric Pickles  
Communities and Local Government

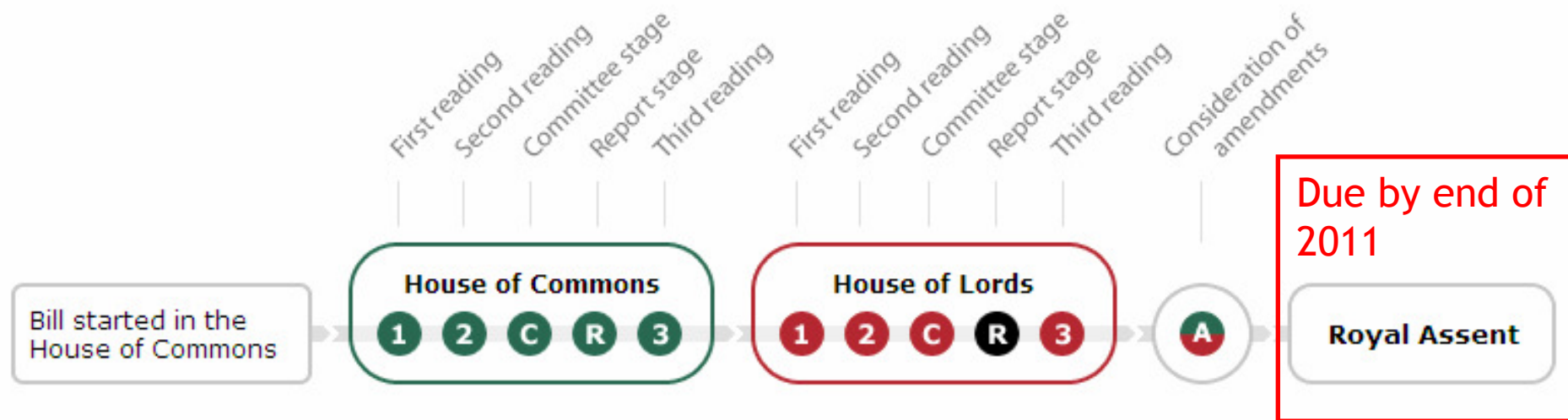
Baroness Hanham  
Communities and Local Government

**READ THIS BILL**



Latest Bill  
Explanatory Notes  
All Bill documents

## Progress of the Bill



### Last event

**C** Committee: 10th sitting: House of Lords 20 July, 2011 | 20.07.2011

### Next event

**R** Report stage: House of Lords | 05.09.2011

Bath & North East  
Somerset Council

**L D F**  
Bath and North East Somerset  
Local Development Framework

# What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

- Neighbourhood, not local planning authority led
- Led by the Parish/Town Council or a ‘Neighbourhood Forum’
- Should plan positively to support the strategic policies of the Core Strategy
- A permissive tool: to enable more development, not less
- This aside, the contents are up to you
- (But subject to the presumption in favour of sustainable development!)

## Feedback from communities – what they might want to do in the plan



- A development boundary, to allow infill housing development within the village
- To develop a site for affordable housing
- To develop a site with market housing to cross-subsidize affordable housing
- To restrict development to lower densities
- To prevent any development, even extensions
- To raise standards of sustainable construction
- To allow solar panels on listed buildings???
- To redevelop a site in the floodplain???



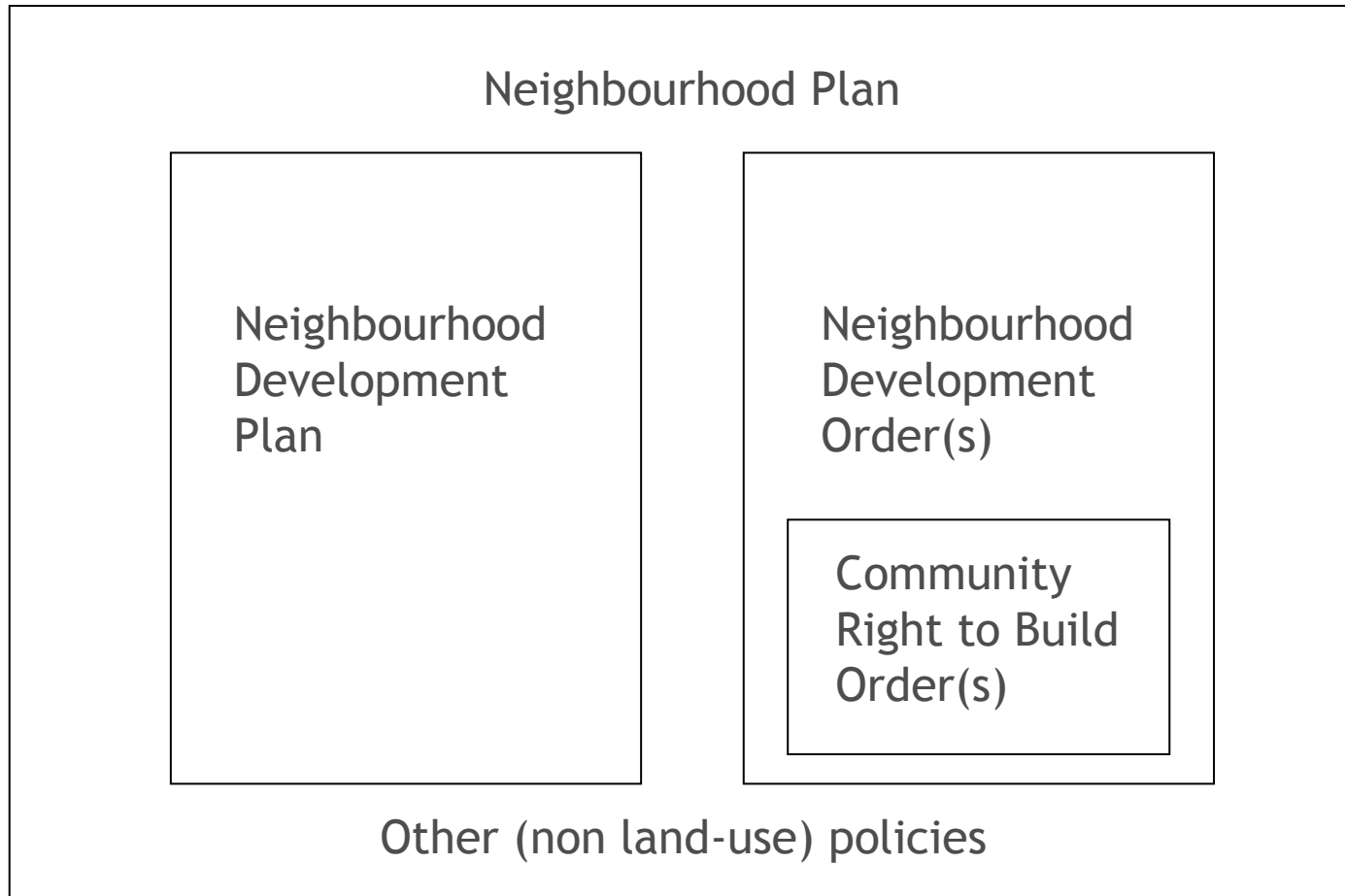
# Why do a Neighbourhood Plan?

- It's not compulsory
- Policies in a Neighbourhood Plan become part of the Council's 'Development Plan'
- They take precedence over existing policies in the Local Plan/Core Strategy
- They will have significant weight when deciding planning applications

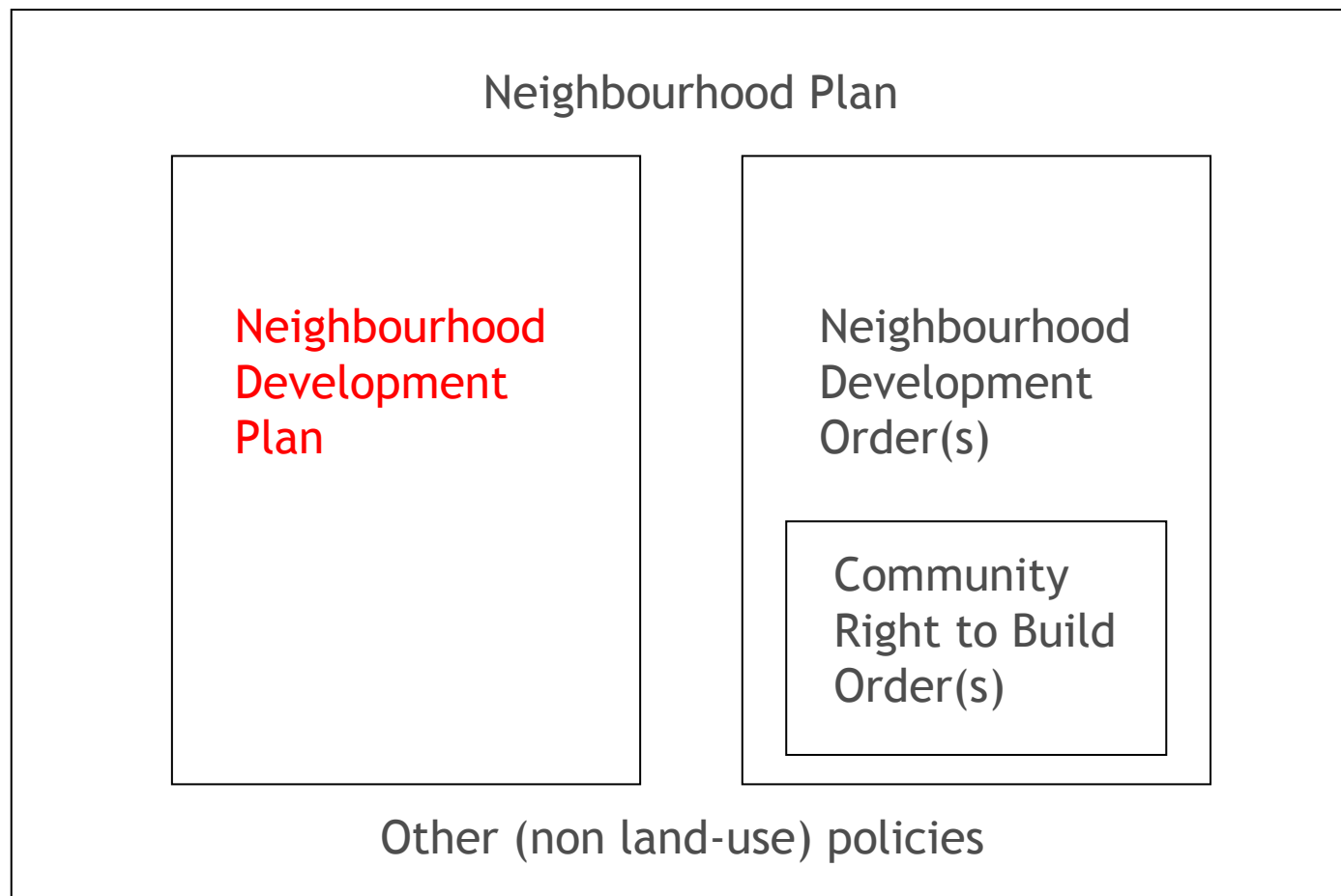
# Neighbourhood Plans have limitations...

- Must *have regard* to development plan and national policy
- Must be *in general conformity* with ‘strategic policies and proposals in development plan
- Must be *compatible* with relevant EU obligations and human rights requirements

# The 'Neighbourhood Plan'



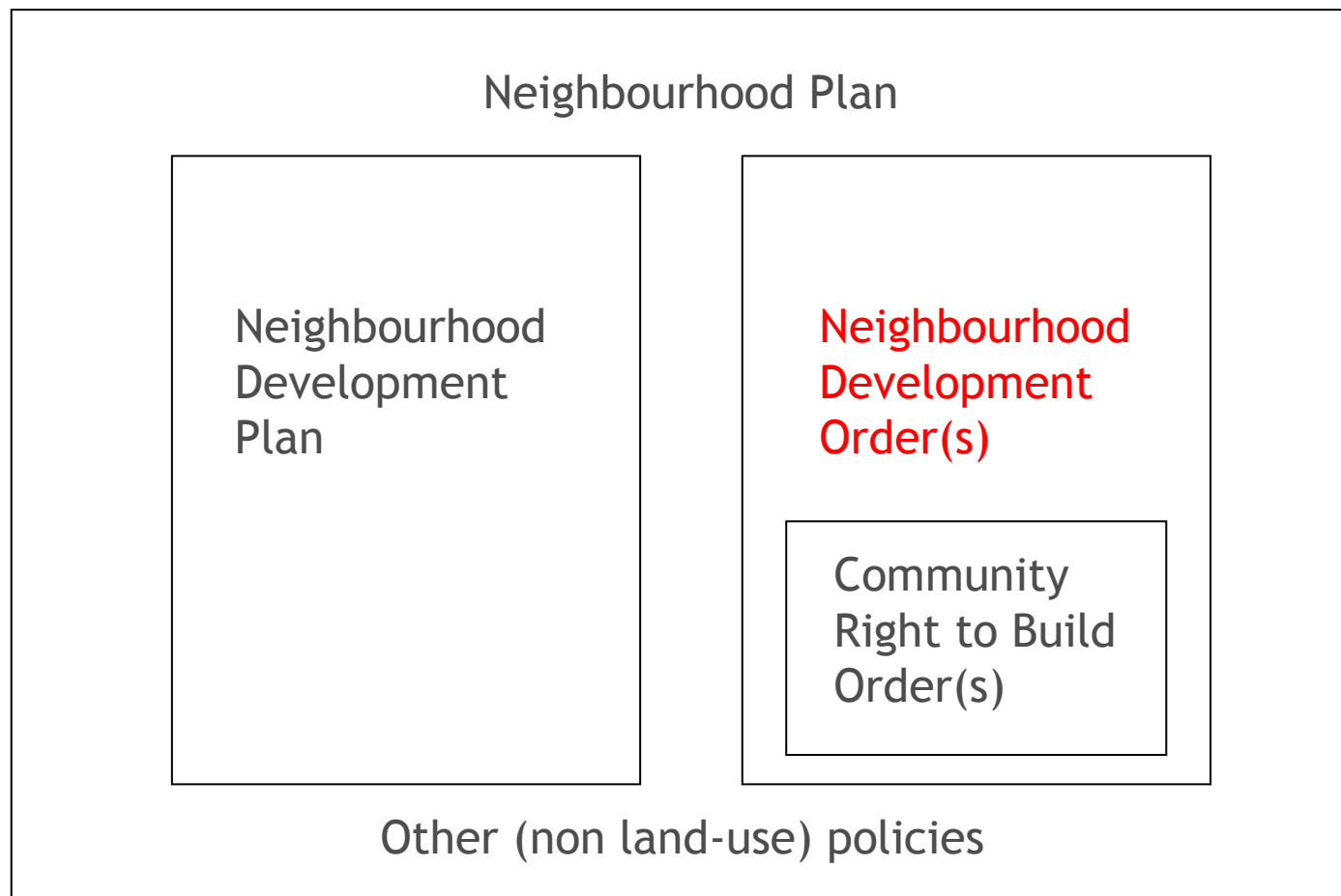
# The 'Neighbourhood Plan'



# Neighbourhood Development Plan

- Develop a vision for the neighbourhood
- Set planning policies for the development and use of land
- For example, local communities will be allowed to protect green areas of importance to them

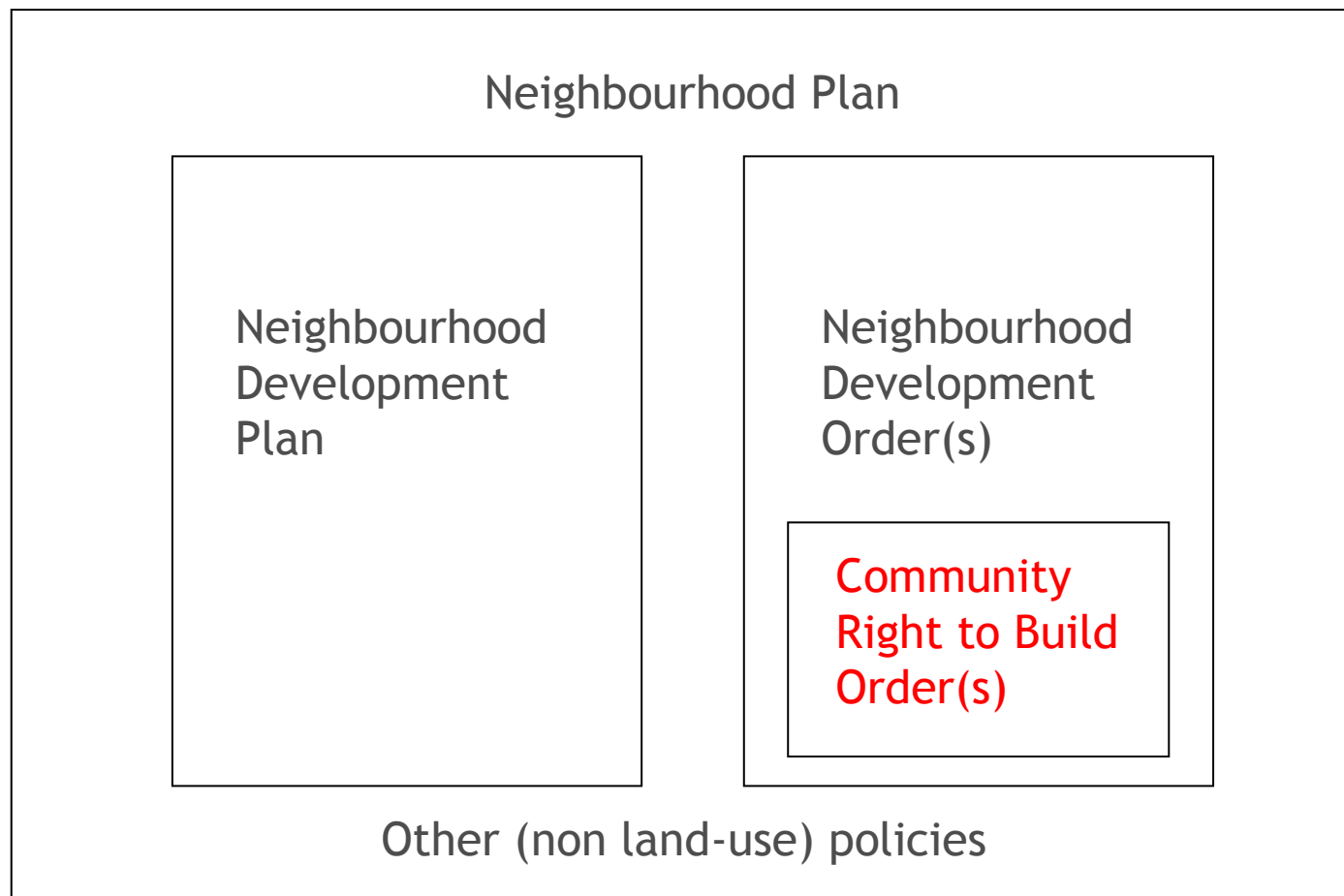
# The 'Neighbourhood Plan'



# Neighbourhood Development Order

- Grants automatic planning permission for specified developments - no need to apply to the Council for permission
- Could include, for example, household extensions, shop fronts or renewable energy proposals

# The 'Neighbourhood Plan'





# Community Right to Build Order

- This is a specific type of Neighbourhood Development Order
- Will be able to identify land for new, small scale development

# In a nutshell

**Neighbourhood  
Development Plan =**  
vision and planning  
policies

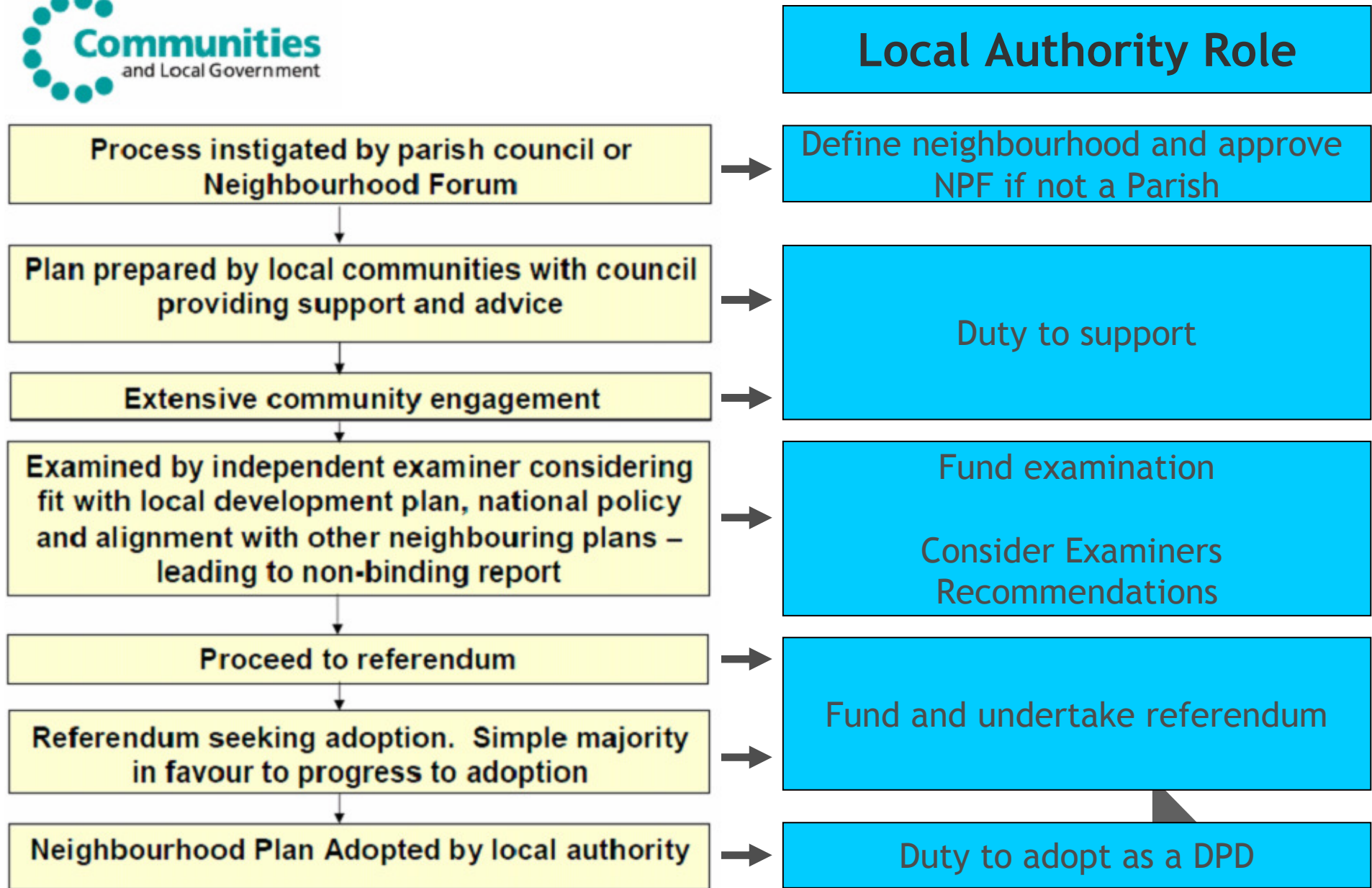
**Neighbourhood  
Development Order =**  
general permitted  
development rights



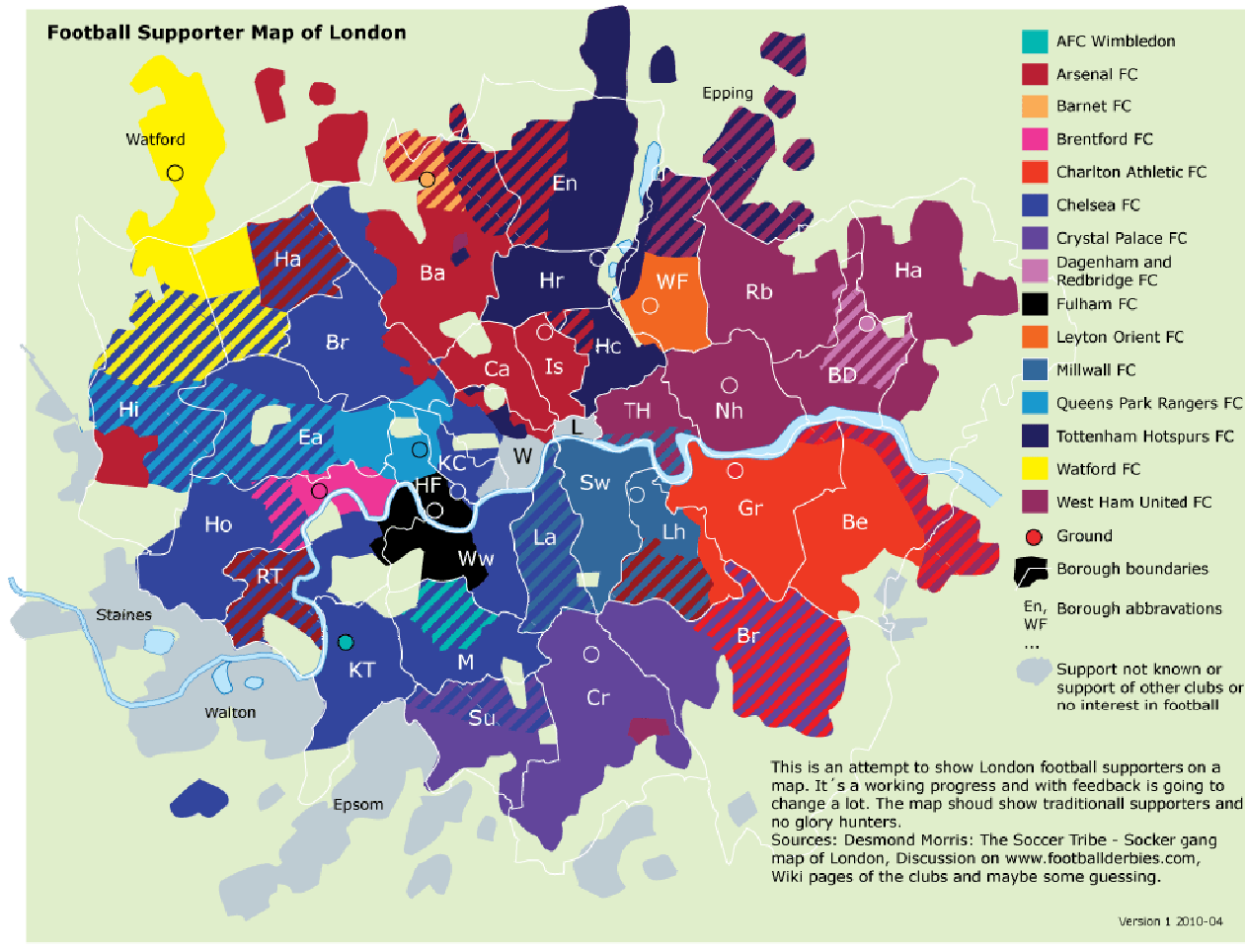
**Community Right to  
Build Order =** site  
specific permitted  
development rights

# The process for developing a Neighbourhood Plan





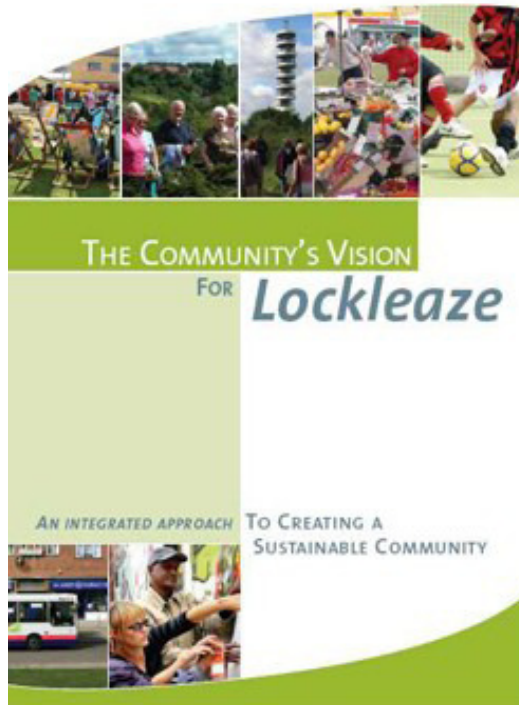
# What is a neighbourhood when it is not a Parish?





- Even more important now for LDF to be spatial and place specific

# Neighbourhood Planning Frontrunner: Lockleaze and Redcliffe



# Help is available

- Supporting Communities and Neighbourhoods in Planning funding



*The Prince's Foundation*  
FOR THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT



**Planning Aid**  
England  
*Engaging Communities in Planning*

**NALC**  
*SERVING LOCAL COUNCILS IN TOWN & COUNTRY*

**locality**  
*Communities ambitious for change*

**Bath & North East  
Somerset Council**

**L D F**  
Bath and North East Somerset  
Local Development Framework



18<sup>th</sup> August 2011

# Neighbourhood Planning Protocol

Liz Tu & Cleo Newcombe-Jones  
Planning Policy

New Council document detailing how the public can get involved in planning in the district

# What will it include?

- Review of Statement of Community Involvement
- Options for getting involved
- Council response to new Neighbourhood Planning duties



# New Neighbourhood Planning Duties

NPP will include guidance on:

- Neighbourhood Forums
- Neighbourhood Plans
- Neighbourhood Development Orders
- Community Right to Build

# Programme

Drafting (including Parish/Town Council Localism working group)	July-Oct 2011
Public consultation	Nov/Dec 2011
Parish and Town Council event	Dec 2011
Adopt	Spring 2012

# Discussion

## Scenario questions

# In groups, please consider:

- Pros
- Cons
- Other ideas

*Good idea –  
but how  
would this  
work?*

*Not  
responsive  
enough*

# How should the Council respond to this Bill?

## Scenario 1

- a) Council pre-empts any Central Government guidance and tries to influence process
  
- b) Council waits for national guidance



# How should the Council help the community achieve their aspirations?

## Scenario 2

- a) The Council encourages Neighbourhood Planning
  
- b) The Council encourage use of existing routes in the first instance- planning application/involvement in planning policy creation

# How should a Neighbourhood Forum come forward in Bath?

## Scenario 3

- a) The Council proactively identify Neighbourhood Forums in the city of Bath, i.e. on a ward basis
  
- b) Allow Neighbourhood Forums in the city of Bath to come forward organically

# How should the Council designate a Neighbourhood Forum?

## Scenario 4

- a) Formal detailed application process to a Council committee and agreed Code of Conduct
  
- b) More light touch designation process

# How much guidance should the Council issue on Neighbourhood Plans?

## Scenario 5

- a) Council issues **rigid guidance** about how to do neighbourhood planning
- b) Council issues **limited guidelines** about how to do neighbourhood planning
- c) No guidance issued

# Existing Parish/Community Plans - How should the Council respond?

## Scenario 6

- a) Guidelines principally aimed at new plans reflecting legislation
- b) Council outlines a plan conversion process
- c) Council issues statement giving steer on weight on existing plans in planning considerations

# What level of assistance should the Council make available?

## Scenario 7

- a) Provide focussed assistance - e.g designated officer
- b) Provide standardised assistance - e.g templates/generic examples
- c) Provide limited assistance - signpost to other national guidance

# Next meeting

- Will look in more detail at proposed NPP content
- Suggested dates:  
Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> Sep  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> Sep  
Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> Sep

# Neighbourhood Planning Quick Poll

## Closing Activity