

# **What is Neighbourhood Planning?**

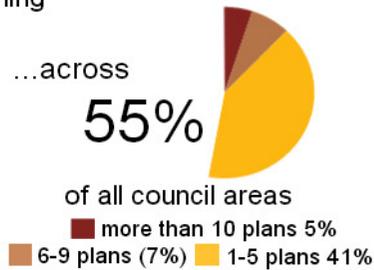
## ***Why is it important?***

Neighbourhood planning was introduced in 2011 through the Localism Act. Neighbourhood planning allows local residents and businesses to have their own planning policies in a neighbourhood plan that reflect their priorities, deliver tangible local benefits and have real weight in planning decisions.

# Neighbourhood planning in numbers

Communities across the country are planning the future of their area

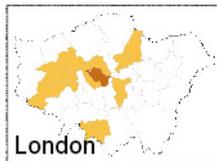
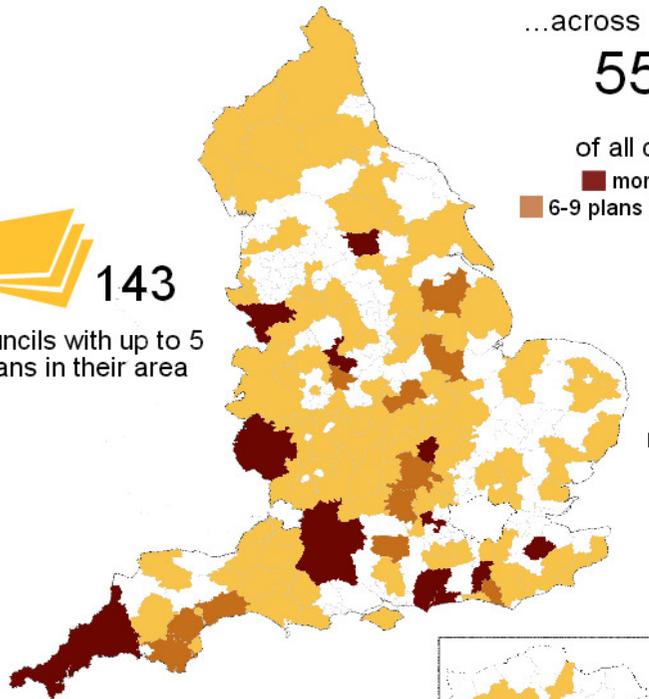
**812** areas have started the neighbourhood planning process...



**143** councils with up to 5 plans in their area

**18** councils with 10 or more plans in their area

**25** councils with 6-9 plans in their area



Across England many different communities have embraced neighbourhood planning

# Neighbourhood Plans

*In very simple terms, a neighbourhood plan is:*

- A document that sets out planning policies for the neighbourhood area. Planning policies are used to decide whether to approve planning applications.
- Written by the local community, the people who know and love the area, rather than the Local Planning Authority.
- A powerful tool to ensure the community gets the right types of development, in the right place.

**A neighbourhood plan is an important document *with real legal force*; therefore there are certain formal procedures that we must go through.**

# What has happened? - *The Story so Far*

In November 2014 an informal open meeting, attended by a number of villagers including members of the Parish Council, was held in the village hall to discuss the proposal to produce a neighbourhood plan.





Following this meeting a steering group, which liaises with the Parish Council who are the Qualifying Body for the process was established to further pursue the options.



Advice was sought from the Rural Community Council for Rutland & Leicestershire as well as consultation with the planning authorities for both Northamptonshire & Rutland County Councils.



The first stage was to designate the area to be covered by the Neighbourhood Plan. It was proposed that the plan would include the parishes of Wakerley and Barrowden and applications were submitted to both Northampton & Rutland County Councils. Formal agreement was received in March this year.

The plan is guided by a Neighbourhood Forum or planning group



A plan for a neighbourhood driven by local people

The plan does not only have to be about the built or physical environment

Local people agree the neighbourhood or plan boundaries

## ***The steering group has:***

- Begun the process of **gathering evidence** about the locality including proposals in the County Councils' Structure Plans which are likely to have an impact on our communities. Reference has also been made to the Village Design Statement published in 2000 and the Parish Plan published in 2005.
- Commenced the development of an ***action plan***.
- Planned and prepared this **consultation event** to further raise awareness and to begin the process of consulting the local community.

# The next steps

- Create an Evidence Base of all existing policies, data and documentary evidence.
- Plan and prepare a Questionnaire, to be delivered to every household in the two villages to further gain opinions on issues raised at the initial consultation



- Consult all local stakeholders relevant to the project
- Review all of the evidence gained from the consultation and evidence gathering process
- Production of a Draft Plan
- Pre-submission Consultation, preparation of a Consultation Statement and independent examination of the Draft Plan.

**Neighbourhood Plan Referendum** is carried out at which all members of the local community have the opportunity to vote as to whether they wish the plan to be accepted.

