



APS Avon
Planning
Services

Implications of the Localism Act & Neighbourhood Development Plans

Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council

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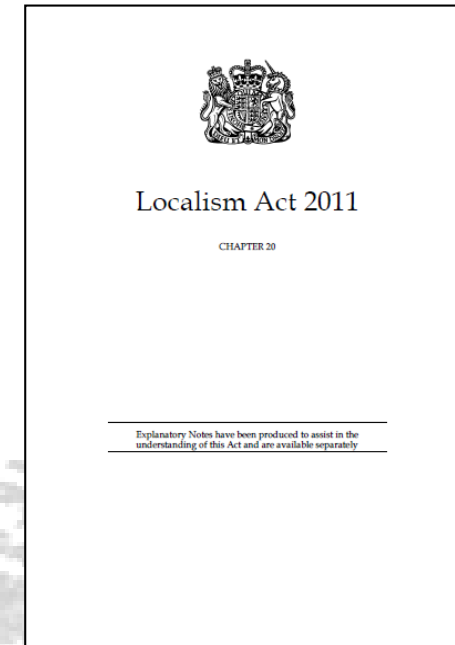
A New Role for the Parish Council

- New Government: New Era
 - Overhaul of the planning system
 - Bottom up rather than top down
 - ‘The Big Society’ – A new agenda
 - The Localism Act 2011



The Localism Act 2011

- What does it mean for the Parish Council?
 - Devolution of power
- Progress and Timetable
- What's in the Act
 - Abolition of Regional Strategies
 - Neighbourhood Development Plans*
 - Community Infrastructure Levy
 - Community Right to Build*
 - Community Right to Bid
 - Community Right to Challenge
 - Tax Referendums and Business Rate Discounts
 - Strengthening of Enforcement Powers
 - Consultation with Communities
 - Clarify rules on Predetermination



Neighbourhood Development Plans

- What is a Neighbourhood Plan?
 - New grass roots tier in the planning system
 - Instigated by local community
 - Part of the statutory Development Plan
 - Replacement for Parish Plans
 - Not a statutory requirement
- What's in a Neighbourhood Plan?
 - Defined by a 'Neighbourhood Area'
 - Contents must be in conformity with the Core Strategy/Local Plan
 - Its basically up to you!
 - Can go beyond the content of the Core Strategy/Local Plan



Neighbourhood Development Plans

- Getting Started
 - Raise awareness & get the community on board
 - Establish a 'Neighbourhood Forum' - at least 20 individuals/organisations
 - Parish Council led but should operate outside of Standing Orders
 - Establish Steering Group of representatives across the community
 - Elect a strong chair to lead
 - Establish clear objectives & an overarching aim/strategy
 - Produce a programme for developing the plan
 - Communications strategy
 - Establish the 'Neighbourhood Area'
 - Undertake a skills audit
 - Collect statistical data/evidence to inform the process
 - Identify areas strengths and weaknesses
 - Undertake public consultation
 - Prepare policies for the Neighbourhood Development Plan

Neighbourhood Development Plans

- Process of Preparation & Adoption – key stages
 - Form a ‘Neighbourhood Forum’
 - Define and propose the ‘Neighbourhood Area’ and submit to the local authority
 - Undertake public consultation with the local community
 - Produce and submit a draft plan to the local authority
 - The local authority will assess it against a validation checklist
 - Submit draft plan to an independent examiner for assessment
 - Written representations are submitted to the independent examiner
 - The independent examiner will publish a report with recommendations
 - Modifications to the plan are made and if necessary with further consultation
 - A referendum is held over whether the NP should be adopted/approved
 - If 51% vote in favour of the NP it will become an adopted plan

Neighbourhood Development Plans

- Role of the Local Authority
 - Technical advice and general support
 - ‘Duty to cooperate’
 - Conformity check against international law, national planning policy and local planning policy
 - Pay for and arrange the referendum
 - Maintain close working relationship with local authority

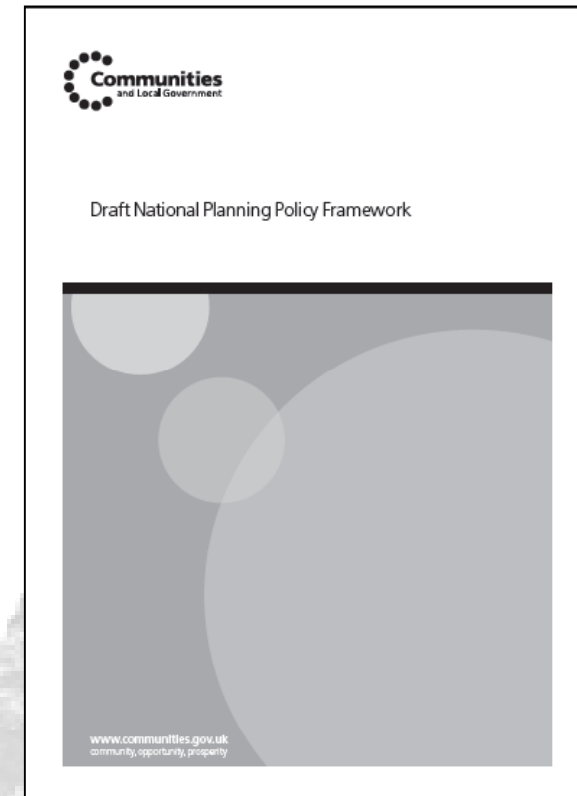
Community Right to Build

- Small scale schemes brought forward by local communities to meet locally-identified needs (up to 10% growth)
- Referendum - 75% must be in favour of proposals
- If successful planning permission is automatically granted
- 6 criteria must be met:
 - Parish Council support agreed by the community in a community-led plan;
 - Evidence of need
 - Appropriate scale
 - Suitable viable site
 - Affordable in perpetuity
 - Good design
- Supplement rather than replace existing system



National Planning Policy Framework

- Consultation draft
- Published on 25th July 2011
- Replacement for PPG's and PPS's
- A single, streamlined policy document
- Presumption in favour of sustainable development
- Paragraph 51
 - NDP – “precedence over existing policies” in LP





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Discussion and Questions

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Company Profile

Avon Planning Services (APS) - Planning & Development Consultants

APS is an independent professional town planning consultancy offering a wide range of urban and rural town & country planning services such as planning applications & appeals, development/site appraisals and project management covering domestic, commercial, industrial & agricultural developments.

APS provides expert advice on a wide range of planning and development issues and is a registered practice of the Royal Town Planning Institute with experience in both public and private sector planning.

APS is a small firm offering competitive rates due to low overheads where every project is given the personal touch.

APS specialises in public sector work and is proud to be associated with a number of District, Town and Parish Councils

Speaker Profile

The Director, Neil Pearce holds a Bachelor of Arts Honours degree in Urban and Regional Planning and a Diploma in Town Planning.

Neil is a member of the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI), the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) and is a Director of the Town and Country Planning Summer School (TCPSS) Charity.

Neil has over 10 years experience in Local Government working for Bournemouth Borough Council, Coventry City Council and senior management appointments at Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Wychavon District Council.

Additionally, Neil has been an independent consultant for over 5 years with a broad range of clients including Local Planning Authorities, Parish and Town Councils and numerous local architectural firms and private individuals across the region.

Neil has been the Consultant Advisor to Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council since October 2007 where he is currently advising on the preparation of the towns Neighbourhood Plan.

Public Sector Clients

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

Warwick District Council

Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council

Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council

Alcester Town Council

Henley-in-Arden Parish Council

Meriden Parish Council

Tanworth-in-Arden Parish Council

Wolston Parish Council

Leamington Spa Town Council

Warwick Town Council

Napton Parish Council

Old Stratford and Drayton Parish Council

Society for Local Council Clerks (SLCC)

Warwickshire Association for Local Councils (WALC)