

KIMBOLTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a Neighbourhood Plan ?

It is a new type of Plan which will focus on very local areas. They are produced by communities (Parish and Town Councils take the lead) but with support from Herefordshire Council.

When adopted, they will form part of the overall Development Plan and be used to consider all planning applications in that area.

What does a Neighbourhood Plan do ?

It gives local people a chance to create a planning document that guides and shapes development in their local area and to influence what facilities are produced in the area as a result.

A Neighbourhood Plan can be used to :

- Choose where new homes, shops and offices should be built.
- Have a say on what those buildings should look like.
- Influence the design and functionality of open spaces around where people live.
- Identify important community facilities such as pubs and meeting places and protect them from redevelopment or change of use.
- Provide a package of measures to address traffic and transportation issues including road safety.

Can it be used to stop development from happening in an area ?

No – a Neighbourhood Plan can guide development to be more appropriate and help decide where it goes, but the Government has made clear that it is not a device to stop development.

Can the Neighbourhood Plan allocate land for development ?

This will depend on how the community wants to progress their Plan but the Plan can be used to allocate land if desired.

How long does all this take ?

It is expected to take approximately 18 months to bring the Plan to completion.

How does this relate to Herefordshire Council's Core Strategy ?

Herefordshire Council's Core Strategy has been published and adopted and will span all the Parishes. It contains overarching Strategic Policies and Development Management Policies. Neighbourhood Plans should be in general conformity and complementary to these strategic policies set out in the Core Strategy.

Does having a Neighbourhood Plan mean a community does not have to use the Local Plan ?

No – the Council's Local Plans remain part of the Development Plan and will continue to be used to determine planning applications. Neighbourhood Plans form a new tier of planning at a very local level.. They need to conform to the approved planning policy of Herefordshire Council but when adopted will form part of the Development Plan for their area.

Which carries more weight – a Neighbourhood Plan or the Local Plan ?

The weight (importance) that is attached to a particular policy can only be decided when considering a specific proposal. At a general level, when adopted, Neighbourhood Plans and the Local Plan should complement each other. Planning decisions will be based primarily around policies in adopted Neighbourhood Plans and the Local Plan.

Will developers have to use Neighbourhood Plans when making Planning Applications ?

Yes – Planning Applications will need to have regard to all relevant policy.

How does a Neighbourhood Plan get adopted as planning policy ?

To get a Neighbourhood Plan adopted, it must first be approved by Herefordshire Council. The next stage is an independent examination of the proposals. If it clears these hurdles then a local Referendum will be held. If a majority of those taking part in the Referendum vote in favour then the Plan will be approved.

What is meant by examination and what will be examined ?

The examination will test whether the Neighbourhood Plan accords with the approved policies of the Local Plan. It will then be carried out by a suitably qualified person who is independent of Herefordshire Council. It will be a “light touch” examination but the examiner may suggest that changes be made. These could, for example, relate to the phrasing of a text to provide greater clarity. If the examiner agrees that the Plan is in line with strategic objectives, then a Referendum can be held.

What is the Referendum ?

Following the examination, the Plan needs to be subject to a Referendum where a majority of the votes need to be in favour of the Plan. The vote is based on the number who actually turn out to vote and not on the population of the Parish. If the vote is in favour of the Plan then Herefordshire Council is legally obliged to adopt it. It will then comprise the Plan for the Parish until 2031.