

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

A Neighbourhood Plan is intended to enable development in local communities, not to block development. It is important that there is a clear understanding of what neighbourhood planning is able to achieve.

A Neighbourhood Plan can:

- Decide where and what type of development should happen in the neighbourhood area;
- Promote more development than is set out in the Core Strategy;
- Include policies, for example regarding design standards, which take precedence over existing policies in the Local Plan for the neighbourhood, provided that the Neighbourhood Plan policies do not conflict with the strategic policies in the Core Strategy;
- Comply with national planning policies set out in the National Planning Policy Framework and EU Laws

A Neighbourhood Plan cannot:

- Conflict with the strategic policies in the Core Strategy;
- Be used to prevent development that is in the Core Strategy.

The Plan must comply with the above and it must be primarily about the use and development of land. A Neighbourhood Plan could include:

- The housing development, including affordable homes and bringing vacant and derelict housing back into use;
- Provision for business to set up or expand their premises;
- Issues around roads, cycling, walking and disabled access;
- The development of schools, places of worship, health, leisure and entertainment facilities, community and youth centres and village halls;
- The design of buildings;
- Protection and creation of open space, nature reserves, allotments, sports pitches, play areas, parks and garden and tree planting;
- Protection of important buildings and historic assets;
- Promotion of renewable energy projects.

A formally adopted Neighbourhood Plan carries more weight in the decision-making process than Village Design Statements and Parish Plans. Once it has

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been adopted, following a successful examination and referendum, it will become a "Development Plan Document" (DPD). There is a legal requirement to take it into consideration when determining planning applications. Consequently, it must be taken very seriously.

Further information, including details of neighbourhoods in Stratford-on-Avon District currently undertaking, or consulting on, Neighbourhood Plans, may be viewed at the District Council's website.

Our neighbouring parish, Long Compton, has implemented a Neighbourhood Plan, which incorporates both a Village Design Statement and the output from a Housing Needs Assessment; the Plan may be viewed at Long Compton Parish Council's website.