



**KEEP
CALM
AND SHARE
GOOD
PRACTICE**

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My reference point

**Direct and long term
involvement with 33
Neighbourhood Plan
groups and counting
12 have past
examination**

**10 of these have been
'made'**

**10 Local Planning
Authority Areas**



The good stuff

- **Meaningful participation** from people who live in these neighbourhoods
- Better understanding and **genuinely collaborative working** between LPA and NP groups **(and developers)**
- Better planning outcomes because the NP has resulted in **more thoughtful consideration of the land use issues**



The bad stuff

- Role of personalities both in LPAs and in communities
- Role of politics
- Role of old grudges, grievances, 'historic' internal community issues, hidden agendas, pet projects
- NP process can reinforce all the negatives about the LPA and divide the community



Good Practice - LPA

- **Clarity of thought/advise – e.g. what policies are strategic**
- **Either an understanding of NPs or good signposting**
- **Don't see NPs as a threat but as an opportunity – let go**
- **How much support can you give? – set expectations**
- **Professionalism – deliver what you say you are going to deliver**



Good Practice - LPA

- **Recognise your USP : content support more critical than process support**
- **Understand the diversity of NP groups skills/ability/capacity this varies enormously**
- **Internal: political support and officer support and across planning policy and development management – essential so approach is consistent**



What you should expect from from NP groups

- The 'right' skills within the group
- Set up right – declaration of interest, terms of reference, relationship with PC
- Outward looking – do lots of community engagement (not vested interest group)
- Basic grasp of the issues – (role of LPA in helping?)
- They must understand 'they' and 'you' are a team



PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND TEAM BUILDING SKILLS

Overseeing the project plan and managing the process

Leadership e.g. lead a steering group or working group

Recruiting and enthusing volunteers

Organisational skills e.g. project management and administration

Administrative skills e.g. documentation of meetings, gatherings and events

Managing the budget and fundraising

Facilitation of meetings, gatherings and events

Marketing and publicity e.g. designing leaflets or producing articles for newsletters or publications

Engagement strategy e.g. the approach and methods to use, questions to ask and how to record and analyse responses

Website design and management

Market research skills e.g. analysis of responses to consultations

DEVELOPING CONTENT

Architectural, historic building and/or urban design skills to assist, for example, with character assessments

Town planning skills e.g. writing planning policies

Statistics and spatial data analysis skills to interrogate the evidence base

Photography e.g. to make the plan accessible, attractive and engaging

Design skills e.g. logo design, visual aids and illustrations to represent ideas, policies and projects and make the plan attractive and engaging

Written communication skills e.g. plan needs to be written in clear and concise English

Design and use of online survey and discussion tools (e.g. SurveyMonkey, CommonPlace, Stickyworld and Vox-up)

Social media skills e.g. Twitter and Facebook to update people on progress. May wish to post questions on forums such as LinkedIn

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



How Neighbourhood Planning can feel to local people

- Usually they are not planners and it is complicated and technical
- But they are smart people who are now reliant on others (planners)
- Very limited funds
- They have to live in the area post NP
- Passionate about their place
- Extremely committed volunteers



My Key Message(s)

- Understand what Neighbourhood Planning can achieve
- Embrace it
- Support the NP groups
- Provide clarity of thought



Your key feedback ...



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