

What is a Neighbourhood Development Plan?

Neighbourhood Development Plans (Neighbourhood Plans) are planning documents that allow communities to set out a vision for their local area and general planning policies to shape and direct future development in a designated area. Neighbourhood Plans are led and written by the community, not the Borough Council. Neighbourhood plans have to be in line with the National Planning Policy Framework and the overall strategic approach and policies set out in the Plan for Stafford Borough.

Neighbourhood Plans are optional. There is no legal requirement for a community or Parish Council to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan. The policies in the Local Plan will still apply to your neighbourhood, whether you decide to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan or not.

Neighbourhood Plans help guide the use and development of land and focus on the needs and aspirations of a local area.

Neighbourhood Plans include a vision, aims, policies and proposals for delivering growth and development within a neighbourhood area.

Neighbourhood Plans are subject to an independent examination and public referendum. When a Neighbourhood Plan is made (adopted) it attains the same legal status as the statutory local development framework; The Plan for Stafford Borough.

Who can prepare a Neighbourhood Plan?

In areas where a Parish or Town Council exists, Parish and Town Councils are the only bodies that can prepare a Neighbourhood Development Plan (Neighbourhood Plan). A Neighbourhood Plan produced by a Parish or Town Council does not have to cover the whole area of the Parish or Town. A Neighbourhood Plan can cover just part of your Parish or Town if you prefer. Alternatively, a Neighbourhood Plan can extend across Parish boundaries.

Where a Parish or Town Council does not exist, community members, including those with business interests in the area, can come together to create a neighbourhood forum. Only one neighbourhood forum is allowed to exist for each neighbourhood to be covered by a Neighbourhood Plan. There are certain rules that will determine whether a neighbourhood forum has been correctly set u