

What is a Neighbourhood Plan

1. A Neighbourhood Plan gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their future neighbourhood, in ways that meet identified local need and make sense for local people. To ensure we get the right sort of development for our community
2. It will provide us with a much stronger role in shaping the Parish. Supporting/opposing new development proposals.
3. The Neighbourhood Plan sits alongside, and has the same legal status, as the Local Plan.
4. We can set Planning Policies which will be used to determine planning applications.
5. Decisions on planning applications will be made using both the Neighbourhood Plan and the Local Plan.
6. Enables local communities to choose
 - where they want new houses, shops, offices, etc. to be built.
 - What new development should look like
 - What infrastructure is needed
7. The lead on the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan needs to be taken by the Parish Council or a neighbourhood forum (where there is no Parish Council)
8. An application must be made by the Parish Council for a neighbourhood area to be designated. It is possible to have a multi-parished neighbourhood area. The LDNP must determine the application within 13 weeks.
9. The Parish Council should work with other members of the community, allowing them an active role in preparing the Plan. The relationship between any group and the Parish Council should be transparent to the wider public.
10. The Parish Council may choose to establish an advisory committee, or sub-committee, and appoint local people (who need not be parish councillors) to those bodies.
11. The terms of reference of that committee should be published and the minutes of meetings made available to the public.
12. Consultation with residents, etc. over the draft Neighbourhood Plan is necessary. Quality and effectiveness of consultation have to be demonstrated.
13. The Parish Council should be inclusive and open in the preparation of its Neighbourhood Plan and ensure that the wider community:
 - is kept fully informed of what is being proposed
 - is able to make their views known throughout the process
 - has opportunities to be actively involved in shaping the emerging Neighbourhood Plan
 - is made aware of how their views have informed the draft Neighbourhood Plan
14. The plan must be approved by a referendum of eligible voters.
15. The Plan should be aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider area. It should support and conform with the strategic development needs set out in the LDNP Local Plan and should support local development.
16. The planning authority should take a proactive and positive approach to the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan, working collaboratively with the Parish Council. Sharing evidence and seeking to resolve issues. Minimise conflict between Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan, including housing supply policies.

17. An “emerging” Neighbourhood Plan may be a material consideration when the LDNP is considering a planning application. This is before the referendum has taken place but, if there is evidence of local support for relevant proposed policies then the planning authority should take it into account.

The role of the Lake District National Park in Neighbourhood Planning:

- Take decisions at key stages in the neighbourhood planning process
- Provide advice to the Parish Council
- Be proactive in providing the Parish Council with information
- Fulfil its duties and take decisions as soon as possible
- Set out a clear and transparent decision making timetable
- Constructively engage with the community throughout the process