

An introduction to Neighbourhood Plans (Localism Act 2012).

Information Sheet No 3

What a Neighbourhood Plan can and cannot do.

A Neighbourhood Plan can...

- decide where and what type of development should happen in the neighbourhood,
- promote more development than is in the Local Plan,
- include policies, for example regarding design standards, that take precedence over existing policies in the Local Plan for the neighbourhood - provided that the Neighbourhood Plan do not conflict with the strategic policies in the Local Plan.

A Neighbourhood Plan cannot...

- conflict with the policies in the Local Plan prepared by the local planning authority
- be used to prevent development that is included in the Local Plan,
- be prepared by a body other than a parish or town council where one exists in an area.

What can a Neighbourhood Plan contain?

So long as your neighbourhood Plan complies with the above principles, it can be as narrow or as broad as you wish. But it must be primarily about the use and development of land and buildings. It can also have a say in how buildings should look (their design), or the materials they are constructed from.

For more details about things that a Neighbourhood Plan might include, please see Information Sheet No 4.

These notes have been extracted from the guidance booklet *How to shape where you live*, produced by the Campaign to Protect Rural England and the National Association of Local Councils (2012).