

These boards explain:

What Neighbourhood Plans are



and how they're prepared

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

It is a relatively new kind of planning document designed to allow local people to play an active part in planning their area.

When complete, the Plan will form part of the statutory development plan for the area, meaning the District Council and Government Planning Inspectors will have to take note of what it says when considering planning applications.



The Neighbourhood Plan sits alongside national and local planning policies when decisions are made on planning applications

Neighbourhood Plans



- contain planning policies for matters that require planning permission
- must not conflict with the Local Plan or national planning policies and cannot change proposals in a Local Plan
- rely on community involvement throughout their preparation and must be approved in a Parish Referendum before they can be used
- will need to be backed up by evidence that supports what they're seeking to achieve
- are intended to allow local people to play an active part in planning their area.

Neighbourhood Plans can:

include proposals for:

- ✓ improving areas
- ✓ enhancing current and providing new facilities
- ✓ developing sites
- ✓ protecting sites and areas of environmental or historic quality
- ✓ protecting facilities of community importance (such as open space, village halls and shops)



- The Plans must be prepared in line with Government Regulations.
- The Parish Council is the “responsible body” for preparing the Plan, but support is needed from residents and experts to produce a Plan that provides a solid framework to guide how a village evolves over future years.

Frequently Asked Questions

How long will it take to produce a neighbourhood plan?

Typically, most of our work can be completed in two years.

How much does it cost to do a neighbourhood plan?

Preparing the Plan shouldn't cost a Parish Council anything. Government grants generally pay all the costs, and free support is available to produce studies such as Village Design Guidance.

What does a Plan look like?

The Plan is a written document, typically of around 40-50 pages, covering a number of planning related topics. It would also include maps and illustrations.

Who prepares the Plan?

A Working Group of volunteers formed by the Parish Council has the responsibility for preparing the Plan, but it will need to be approved by the Parish Council. Planning consultants can help do the technical work, paid for by the Government grants.

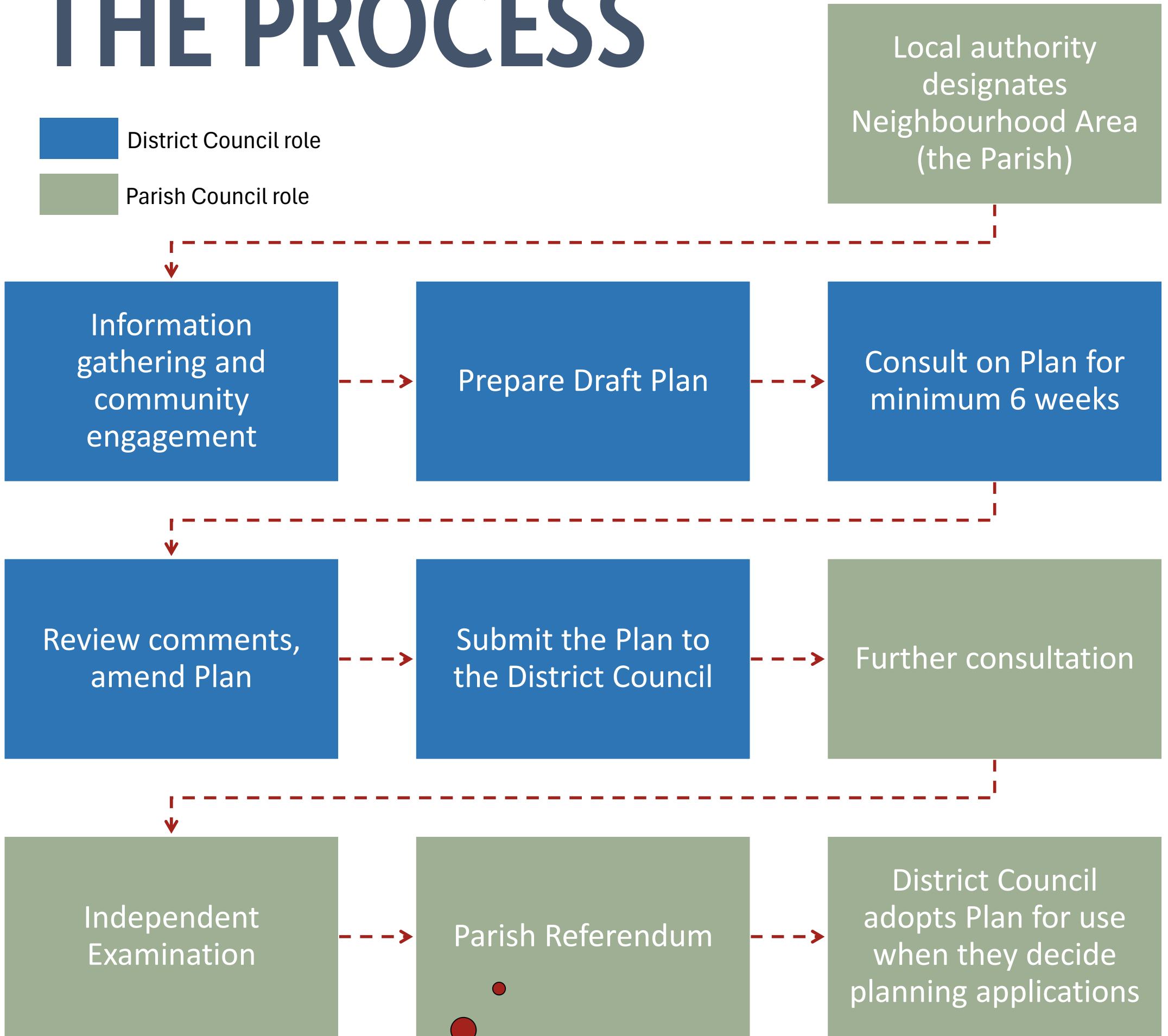
What can a neighbourhood plan cover?

Although Plans have to focus on planning matters (things that needs planning permission) they can include non-planning topics to address areas of concern or ambitions of the community.

Does it mean that Parish Councils will be able to make decisions on planning applications?

No, only the District Council or, in specific circumstances, the County Council can take decisions on planning applications

THE PROCESS



The Referendum is conducted in the same way as an election. If more than 50% of those that vote are in favour of the Plan, then the District Council **MUST** adopt it

PLACES 4 PEOPLE **PLANNING CONSULTANCY**

We specialise in the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans. With 50 years' experience in town planning in local authorities and the private sector.

We have helped over 30 local communities across the East of England complete Plans since we were formed in 2015.