



Biddulph Neighbourhood Plan

What is Neighbourhood Planning?

Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area. They are able to choose where they want new homes, shops and offices to be built, have their say on what those new buildings should look like and what infrastructure should be provided, and grant planning permission for the new buildings they want to see go ahead. Neighbourhood planning provides a powerful set of tools for local people to ensure that they get the right types of development for their community where the ambition of the neighbourhood is aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area.

Local communities can choose to:

- set planning policies through a neighbourhood plan that is used in determining planning applications.
- grant planning permission through Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders for specific development which complies with the order.

Neighbourhood planning is not a legal requirement but a right which communities in England can choose to use.

Neighbourhood planning enables communities to play a much stronger role in shaping the areas in which they live and work and in supporting new development proposals. This is because unlike the parish, village or town plans that communities may have prepared, a neighbourhood plan forms part of the development plan and sits alongside the Local Plan prepared by the local planning authority. Decisions on planning applications will be made using both the Local Plan and the neighbourhood plan, and any other material considerations.

Neighbourhood planning provides the opportunity for communities to set out a positive vision for how they want their community to develop over the next ten, fifteen, twenty years in ways that meet identified local need and make sense for local people. They can put in place planning policies that will help deliver that vision.

To help deliver their vision communities that take a proactive approach by drawing up a Neighbourhood Plan or Order and secure the consent of local people in a referendum, will benefit from 25 percent of the revenues from the Community Infrastructure Levy arising from the development that takes place in their area.

What this means for Biddulph:

As has been previously reported, a Working Group has been set up consisting of town councillors

and members of the community. Several workshops have taken place to get the community's view on land for development. The findings will be reviewed in conjunction with the recommendations from the District Council. At these workshops a request was made for residents to assist in drawing up the Neighbourhood plan.

After discussion the working group has decided that the **Biddulph Neighbourhood Plan** should not just look at site allocations but at all areas. The themes to be looked at include Employment, Town Centre & Retail, Housing, Urban Design, Historic Environments, Transport, Natural Environment, Health, Sustainability, Social Care, Cultural Development & Education. Sub groups will be set up to look at these areas.

It is hoped that agreement can be reached with SMDC over site allocations for housing and industrial and commercial development, in order that the SMDC Local Plan reflects the views of the Biddulph Neighbourhood Plan. This will give time for the Neighbourhood Plan to be researched and produced.

Help needed:

We currently have a Working Group that is overseeing the production of the plan but more resource is required to help look at and investigate the various areas. It is planned to have subgroups for each of the areas. We are looking for people who wish to make a contribution to the future plans for our town. We are especially looking for people who have skills in any of the following areas: planning, business, health, community groups, education and legal or if you are just interested in the future of your town and want to contribute, you would be most welcome.

It is planned to have further workshops in the area looking at what people want for their town in the future. It is also planned to circulate a questionnaire to all households to get people's views and to set up a Facebook page to let people know what we are doing and how things are progressing.

If you wish to become involved please contact: **Mrs Sarah Haydon, Chief Officer for the Town Council: telephone: 01782 297845 Email: biddulph@staffordshire.gov.uk**