Sorting out the issues – early steps in neighbourhood planning

15th April 2013

Andrew Triggs, Planning Policy Officer
South Downs National Park Authority
We applied to SDNPA for the proposed neighbourhood area to be designated.

SDNPA has designated the area.

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Getting Started (workshop 1)</th>
<th>Getting Prepared and getting out there (workshop 2)</th>
<th>Building your Evidence (workshop 3)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Preparing a list of local contacts</td>
<td>2.1 Developing a communication / community</td>
<td>3.1 Assessing existing designations and infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Getting the community on board</td>
<td>engagement strategy</td>
<td>3.2 Introducing the Local Planning Authority evidence base</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Establishing the steering group</td>
<td>2.2 Creating a time plan for the process</td>
<td>3.3 Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4 Defining neighbourhood area and seeking approval from Local Planning Authority (-ies)</td>
<td>2.3 Securing funding and identifying budget</td>
<td>3.4 Questionnaires and surveys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.4 Assembling existing data and evidence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.5 Early stages of consultation – launch event</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and first workshops (“sorting out the issues”)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.6 Keeping a record of community involvement and consultation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fundamental aims of plan

• Has to tie in with higher level policy. This will be tested at examination.

• It needs to get a **YES** at referendum.

This relies on:-

dialogue with the Local Planning Authority; using existing evidence well; possibly collecting some additional evidence and getting local people and businesses behind the plan.

Good supporting information = solid policy.
South Downs National Park Authority identifying issues for whole of the National Park

- Emerging Management Plan
- State of the National Park Report
- Background info/data for Joint Core Strategies (Winchester, East Hampshire, Mid Sussex, Lewes and Wealden).
Launch Event (“take off’’)

- Reasonably blank canvas.
- Set up a contact database/Excel spreadsheet if not done so.
- Recruit volunteers.
- Find out how they wish to be involved.
- Begin collecting information about what people think about the Parish.

NB: approach taken in gathering local views will vary according to characteristics of the Parish, the availability of findings from previous exercises and the ambition of the Plan. There is no template.
What are you trying to find out?

• What is good about the area?
• What is bad about the area?
• What makes it a good place to work in?
• What pressures affect the area now or in the future?
• What needs to change?
Example: St James Exeter neighbourhood plan

- Initial public meeting.
- Meeting to initiate task groups + half day “Big neighbourhood drop-in” at local Primary School.
- 3 main task groups set up: People (community); Places (buildings, landscape and environmental) and Prosperity (local economy, business and transport).
- Booked in meetings with key stakeholders.
- At end of this stage task groups provided a report on their findings to the Steering Group.
WELCOME
To all who live and work in St James ward – You have a stake in the neighbourhood plan for St James
Plan the future for People, Places and Prosperity
Exeter St James Forum welcomes you to the

BIG NEIGHBOURHOOD DROP-IN
A community event for you to find out more about the Forum and the neighbourhood plan and to have your say by joining in these activities in the hall

Big Neighbourhood Plan Show us where you live, where you want to see changes, new facilities, places to meet, play and walk - on the big street map in the middle of the room

Big Graffiti Make your mark - Write your thoughts on the future for our community (people), places and prosperity (economic development)

Perfect Day The 24 hour clock – pick your time – what would you really like to do in and around St James

Students now and in the future
University of Exeter Students’ Guild

Memories A quieter corner to look at old photos – tell us about your memories of St James

Old St James Maps through the centuries

Changes to the traffic system
Consultation by Devon County Council and Exeter City Council

Join the Forum today, Find out more about the neighbourhood plan:
www.exeterstjamesforum.org

Thank you for attending and taking an interest
BIG NEIGHBOURHOOD DROP-IN

Comments

We hope you have enjoyed the Big Neighbourhood Drop-In. If you have any further comments or ideas on how to improve St James please write them below.

Post the form in the box or email your comments to info@exeterstjamesforum

Tell us what you like about St James:

Great mixed community with real mix of residents

Tell us what you would like to improve about St James:

Web collections, student/resident relations

Can you think of anything that St James needs to make it a better place to live or work (eg new homes, new shops, more green spaces etc)

Not really

Your Perfect Day in St James

It is a day 10 years in the future - 2020. The Exeter St James Neighbourhood Plan has been a huge success thanks to the ideas developed by the community back in 2011.

Tell us what you would do in St James on your perfect day - where do you go, what do you do, who do you see throughout the day.

What makes you feel good about living in St James?

Lunch in a sunny garden

Sign up to become a member of the Exeter St James Forum! As a member you will receive updates on development of the neighbourhood plan and be invited to any events organised by the Forum.

Name:  
Email:  
Would you like to become a Member:  
Y  
N
Lewes “open house” launch – Feb 2013

• Explains what you intend to do.
• Manages expectations.
• Captures some initial ideas.
• Signs people up to take part.
• Takes an informal approach.
Analysing responses

• Summarise feedback under main themes / headings.
• Not likely to be a quantitative exercise.
• Can form basis of a S.W.O.T.
• May be able to use graphics.
• 2 key audiences: your community and the examiner.

• Example: Winsford Neighbourhood Plan “Community Consultation Report, establishing a Vision and Objectives (April 2012)”.
Second event: structured workshop

- Task groups gather secondary data (i.e. Census/other socio-economic data).*
- Task groups start to research existing plans and strategies (esp. if prepared in last 5-10 years) and summarise.*
- Report findings from launch event to community.
- Second workshop “validates” what you already know by drawing on all existing evidence and sharing this with the community.
- Stay impeccably neutral at this time – don’t take sides.

* Steps taken prior to workshop
Become a policy swot

• Research what the National Planning Policy Framework, saved Local Plan policies, Core Strategies, Allocation Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents say.

• The initial community consultation + background research + second workshop will you decide what the plan should focus on.
Vision

• The issues enable the PC to develop a profile or portrait of your community and from this a vision and key supporting objectives for the Plan.
• “Postcards from the future” exercise.
• You now have a basic framework to start developing policies and proposals.
Postcard from the future

- Write a message telling your friends what you would be doing in 20XX.

“I would like to drive through Winsford with nice Victorian style lanterns, lovely trees down the central reservations, all buildings to have character with Cheshire red brick, with a good transport link to Chester/ Northwich by Trams, regular every half hour. An old high street that is cobbled (pedestrianised) little cafeteria, able to pull up at the flashes, get on a little visitors boat, with a hotel in (Cheshire red brick) for my family to stay. Then visit the town centre (in Cheshire red brick) with good shops and nip out to the outside of Winsford for a little browse around a small retail park.”
Contact:

tim.richings@southdowns.gov.uk       01730 811752
chris.paterson@southdowns.gov.uk       01730 811766
andrew.triggs@southdowns.gov.uk       01730 811759