



# A Guide to Preparing Neighbourhood Plans in Camden

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Strategic Planning and Implementation Regeneration and Planning Culture and Environment London Borough of Camden <u>planningpolicy@camden.gov.uk</u>



# **1** Introduction to neighbourhood plans

## Purpose of this guide

Communities can now prepare neighbourhood plans to influence the future of their areas.

The Council realises that neighbourhood planning and the rules that communities need to follow can be complex so we have prepared this guide to help communities decide whether to get involved in neighbourhood planning and help them in preparing a plan if they do.

This guide:

- gives an introduction to neighbourhood plans;
- explains the steps communities should follow when they are preparing a neighbourhood plan;
- set outs the role of the Council;
- gives information on sources of support and help.

Preparing a neighbourhood plan is a substantial undertaking which will take significant time and effort from a community. It is therefore important that communities are aware of the implications of producing a neighbourhood plan before they start work and are clear about what a plan can achieve.

## What is a neighbourhood plan?

Neighbourhood plans are planning documents that allow communities to set out their vision for their local area and general planning policies to shape and direct development in their neighbourhood. They are led and written by the community, not the Council.

Neighbourhood plans can provide detail on how the Council's borough-wide planning policies should be applied in a local area, to reflect the aspirations of the community and local circumstances. Neighbourhood plans have to be in line with the overall strategic approach in Camden's existing adopted plans and national policy.

If a neighbourhood plan is prepared in line with the legal requirements and supported at a local referendum (by more than 50% of those voting) the Council must then take the plan into account alongside our own plans when we make decisions on planning applications in that area.

## Who can prepare a neighbourhood plan?

All communities can write a neighbourhood plan. However, they must be prepared by an approved neighbourhood forum (see the section on *Setting up a neighbourhood forum* below for further information).

It is up to communities whether they think a neighbourhood plan would be useful for their area - you do not have to produce one. If you don't have a neighbourhood plan the Council's existing planning policies will still apply in your area.

## Things to think about before you start

Neighbourhood planning is a significant undertaking in terms of time, effort and resources. Plans have to pass through several statutory stages and meet a number of legal tests before they can be used. Experience has shown that it can take 2 - 3 years or more from initial meetings to the completion of a plan.

Therefore communities should make sure that they understand what is involved in preparing a neighbourhood plan before they start.

"Preparing a plan will require a lot of time and effort. Although how much time it will take will vary depending on the issues you want to cover and the size of your community... You will need to involve other people who may not agree with your views. It will require your community to reach a broad consensus on the objectives, key issues and desired outcomes." (How to shape where you live: a guide to neighbourhood planning; CPRE)

A neighbourhood plan is likely to be most effective if the community is clear from the start what it wants to achieve and how it is going to go about it.

Communities should begin by asking whether a neighbourhood plan is right for them.

It may be that that a community feels that they do not need to add anything to the Council's existing policies to influence development in their neighbourhood or that what will be achieved through a neighbourhood plan is not worth the time and effort involved.

You should consider whether a neighbourhood plan is the best way for you to meet the community's aspirations for the area. There may be other types of planning document which might be more appropriate (for example, updates to a conservation area appraisal and management strategy) or it may be that what concerns the community are matters that can best be tackled outside of the planning system (for example, licensing or parking). You may wish to discuss this with Council officers before you decide.

Other questions communities should ask themselves at an early stage include:

- What do we want our neighbourhood plan to achieve?
- What area should our plan cover? What is the boundary?
- Are there other groups or areas nearby who might want to join with us?
- Who will be part of our neighbourhood forum?
- Do we have at least 21 members with at least one in each of the following categories: lives in the area; works in the area; and is a Councillor?
- How can we make the neighbourhood forum as representative of the local community as possible, involving the full range of people who live, work and do business in the area?
- How will we engage the wider community while preparing our plan? How can we make sure they will support our plan?

- Have we got the support and involvement of our local councillors?
- What skills and support are available from the local community and businesses to help us prepare our neighbourhood plan?
- How long will the plan take to prepare? What are our timescales?

In addition to the advice in this guide and the other sources of support and information set out in section 3, you can contact us for assistance on neighbourhood planning at planningpolicy@camden.gov.uk

### What area can be covered by a neighbourhood plan?

It is for the community to define the area to be covered by their neighbourhood plan, although the Council has a role in checking that the neighbourhood area and forum applications meet the legal requirements and have local community support.

There are no rules governing the size of neighbourhood areas, although it is likely to be a more manageable task to prepare a neighbourhood plan for a smaller area than for a large one. Neighbourhoods can cross the borough boundary into other local authority areas.

Please see the section below on *Setting a neighbourhood area boundary* which explains the process for agreeing a boundary and provides more information for communities that extend beyond Camden.

## What is the Council's role?

Neighbourhood plans are prepared by the community but there are a number of things the Council has a duty to do. These include:

- consult on and make a decision on the boundary of the area to be covered by a neighbourhood plan;
- consult on and make a decision on applications to set up neighbourhood forums;
- checking the plan prior to formal submission;
- publicise a plan proposal;
- organise the check by an independent examiner into a neighbourhood plan;
- organise the referendum into the plan; and
- taking the final neighbourhood plan into account in planning decisions in the area.

We also have a duty to provide technical advice and support to those producing a neighbourhood plan. This guide forms part of the support the Council is providing for Camden's communities. The other parts of this guidance note give more detail on the Council's role. Alongside our legal duties, the Council is happy to provide informal advice to assist communities throughout the process.

# What weight will the Council give to neighbourhood plans in planning decisions?

Neighbourhood plans will be statutory planning documents. Once a neighbourhood plan is formally agreed by the Council, we must take it into account when we make decisions on planning applications in that neighbourhood. A neighbourhood plan will therefore have significant weight in decisions by the Council on planning proposals.

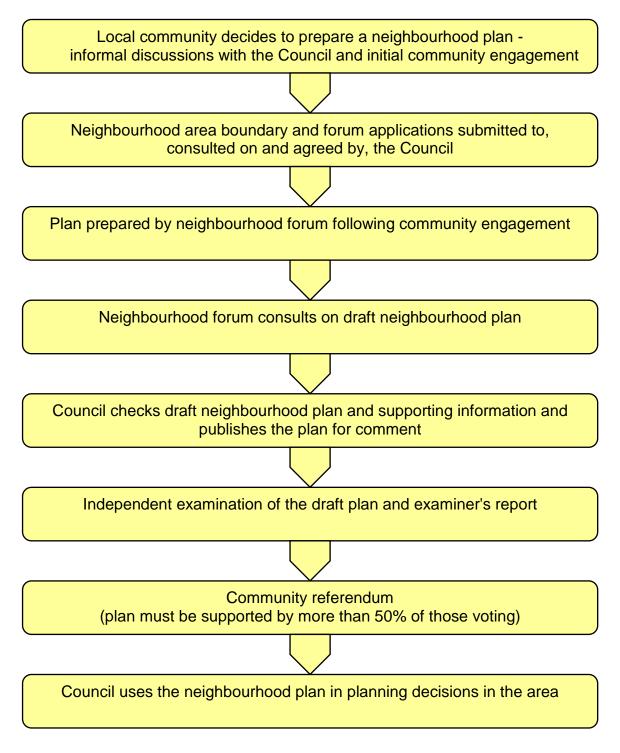
A neighbourhood plan will have the same degree of weight in decisions as our 'local plan' (that is our existing Local Development Framework (LDF) documents, such as the Camden Core Strategy and Development Policies) and greater weight than 'supplementary planning documents', such as Camden Planning Guidance and planning briefs, and Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Strategies.

Where there is a conflict between the policies in a neighbourhood plan and other non-strategic Council planning policies, the policies in the neighbourhood plan take precedence.

# 2 Preparing a neighbourhood plan

As neighbourhood plans become formal planning documents with significant weight in decisions on planning applications, they have to be prepared following a statutory process, broadly similar to that for the Council's own plans.

The diagram below summarises the stages in preparing a neighbourhood plan. The rest of this section provides more detail on these stages, setting out what communities need to do and the role of the Council.



# Defining a neighbourhood area boundary

Setting the boundary of the neighbourhood area will be one of the first tasks for a community intending to produce a neighbourhood plan. The proposed boundary needs to be agreed by the Council, following a period of public consultation.

The Council is happy for applications for a neighbourhood area boundary and neighbourhood forum to be submitted and consulted upon at the same time, which effectively speeds up the process. Experience in Camden to date suggests it takes at least a year to move from inception to formal designation of the forum and its area.

Forums are strongly advised to send draft applications to the Council before formally submitting the applications. We will check the drafts and if necessary we will suggest alterations to ensure that your applications meet the relevant regulations before public consultation.

#### What the community should do?

It is for communities to set the boundary of their neighbourhood. Although it should be noted that neighbourhood boundaries cannot overlap as, under the regulations, areas can only be part of one neighbourhood area.

As neighbourhoods in London do not always have neat boundaries, we strongly recommend that you engage with all communities inside and outside your boundary when setting your neighbourhood area. If there are any disputes over the boundary you should look to resolve them prior to submitting the applications for your neighbourhood area and forum. We also expect forums to undertake to work closely with neighbouring areas in regard to places of mutual interest.

It is important to secure wide support from all parts of the community within a neighbourhood boundary. The Council would not normally support the inclusion of an area if those living there do not wish to be involved.

When the community have started drafting or are beginning to draft their boundary we strongly advise you to get in touch with the Council. This will help to ensure that your area application meets all the legal requirements.

An area application must include:

- a map showing the boundary of the proposed neighbourhood area;
- a statement that explains why the community consider that their proposed area is appropriate to be a neighbourhood plan area; and
- a statement that the organisation making the application is, or is capable of being, designated as, a neighbourhood forum (see the section on Setting up a neighbourhood forum below).

#### Cross borough plans

If your neighbourhood boundary crosses into another council's area, the councils will work together to give you support. The precise arrangements will need to be agreed between the councils in discussion with the neighbourhood forum, taking into account the specific circumstances of the area. Decisions relating to a cross boundary plan will need to be taken by both councils.

#### What the Council will do

When we get an application for a neighbourhood boundary we have to publicise it on our website and bring it to the attention of people who live, work or carry out business in the local area. We will also publicise the application in adjoining areas where we think this is appropriate.

People will have at least 6 weeks to respond with their representations on the proposed boundary.

When making a decision on an application the Council will ensure it is in line with the legal requirements and also the results of the community consultation.

Please note that the more opposition from within the community, or parts of it, or from an adjacent neighbourhood an application attracts, the less likely it is the Council will be able to approve it. Therefore, you are strongly recommended to make sure you have support across the whole community and have discussed and agreed your boundary with neighbouring areas before you apply to the Council.

## Setting up a neighbourhood forum

A neighbourhood plan has to be prepared by a body called a 'neighbourhood forum.' So, before a community can formally produce their neighbourhood plan they need to set up a neighbourhood forum for their area. (There can be only one neighbourhood forum for each neighbourhood area)

#### What the community should do

When you are thinking of setting up your neighbourhood forum you should make sure that it meets the legal standards.

The forum application should include:

- the name of the proposed forum;
- the name of, and a map showing, the relevant neighbourhood area;
- contact details of at least one member of the proposed forum (which will need to be made public);
- a list of 21 members\* these should live or work in the neighbourhood or be a councillor (at least one person from each of there categories is required);
- a copy of the proposed forum's constitution;
- a statement saying how the proposed neighbourhood forum meets the legal standards.

\*Please note that the Council will not publish the full details of address on the website. Full details are confidential and will only be used for the purposes of checking your application against the regulations.

The Council attaches great importance to forums being inclusive and representative of the diversity of their communities. Therefore, applications should also include evidence of:

- how you have engaged with different sections of the community and included them in the forum where possible;
- how you have engaged across the different parts of the area;
- which groups and stakeholders you have engaged with (or made efforts to engage with);
- your intentions for engagement as the neighbourhood plan progresses and those who you intend to involve.

Neighbourhood plans should involve and be supported by as much of the community as possible and aim to involve all sections within the community. Although the forum will take the lead in preparing the plan, you should try to involve as much of the community as possible at the start and throughout the process. You should try to involve all sectors of the community, including young people, minority ethnic groups, older people, disabled people, faith groups, local businesses, landowners, councillors, community groups and people from a variety of housing tenures. The more people you involve, the more knowledge, skills and ideas you will be able to draw up to help you prepare your plan and the more support you will have from within the community. One tool that may be of use to seek out other groups or organisations in your area is Cindex. <u>Cindex</u> is the Council's local community information database containing details of around 5,000 organisations and services.

It is also important to bear in mind that neighbourhood plans need to be passed in a community referendum before they can be adopted and used by the Council. If you do not have wide community support, your plan may be rejected at the referendum and the time and efforts of those involved may be wasted.

#### What the Council will do

When we get an application for a neighbourhood forum we have to publicise it on our website and to bring it to the attention of people who live, work or carry out business in the local area. We will also publicise the application in adjoining areas where we think this is appropriate.

People will have at least 6 weeks to respond with their representations on the application.

When making a decision on an application we will take into account whether it is in line with the legal requirements set out above and any views on the application we receive during the consultation. Applications that do not meet the standards will not be approved. We will attach particular importance to the need for forums to be representative of their community and its diversity and include people from the different sections within it. You are able to submit both an area application and forum application at the same time.

There is no standardised application form but we have a checklist available <u>online</u> to help you with this part of the process.

# Preparing a neighbourhood plan

When you have your area boundary and neighbourhood forum approved you are ready to get on with preparing your plan. At this point it will be very useful for the forum's representatives to meet Council officers to discuss the neighbourhood's intentions for their plan and the nature and timing of support from the Council. This line of communication should continue throughout the preparation of your neighbourhood plan.

It is for individual neighbourhoods to decide how they should go about preparing their plan and this is not covered in this guide. However, other organisations have prepared useful advice on how to go about preparing a neighbourhood plan which you may wish to refer to, for example the <u>Neighbourhood Plans Roadmap Guide</u> prepared by Locality.

#### Support for neighbourhood forums

Support for communities wishing to prepare a neighbourhood plan is available through Locality. This can be in the form of:

- direct support (that is, the provision of specialist advice); and
- grant payments (of up to £7,000).

For further details of the support on offer and to find out whether you are eligible, please visit the 'my community rights' website.

#### **Content of neighbourhood plans**

What is in a neighbourhood plan is largely up to the community. The topics covered will reflect the issues the local community consider important. Your plan can include as many or few topics as you want and be as detailed or general as you want. For example, a plan could provide guidance on:

- what new buildings in the area should look like;
- what type of development should happen on development sites in the neighbourhood; and
- the mix of uses in town and neighbourhood centres in the area.

Neighbourhood plans should be focussed on influencing development, not stopping growth and development from happening.

Neighbourhood plans are primarily planning documents so should focus on planning matters. There are no legal restrictions on neighbourhood plans covering non-planning matters. However, you should be aware that when the Council assesses planning applications in your neighbourhood area these nonplanning matters will not be addressed. If your plan does include material on non-planning matters, such as highways or licensing, you may consider incorporating these in an appendix to clearly separate them from the planning element.

#### **Basic conditions**

Neighbourhood plans must be assessed by an independent examiner to ensure they meet the legal requirements, known as the 'basic conditions'. It is important to note that if you do not meet relevant statutory requirements your plan will not pass the independent examination and will therefore not be able to proceed to local referendum and adoption.

To meet the basic conditions a neighbourhood plan must:

- have appropriate regard to national policy (that is, the <u>National Planning</u> <u>Policy Framework and guidance</u>);
- contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;
- be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the development plan of the local area;
- be compatible with human rights requirements; and
- be compatible with EU regulations.

Neighbourhood plans must also be in line with all relevant laws and regulations. Your neighbourhood plan may require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to meet the basic condition to meet EU requirements.

SEA is a process to determine whether plans will have significant environmental impacts. Draft neighbourhood plans should be screened by the Council at an early stage to identify whether an SEA is required. Whether you need an SEA for your plan will largely depend on the scale and impact of the proposals in your neighbourhood plan. It is more likely that an SEA will be required if a neighbourhood plan includes proposals relating to the location of new development and the land uses, nature, size etc. of development on particular sites.

Separate guidance notes on SEA and basic conditions are available on our <u>neighbourhood planning advice page</u>.

#### Building evidence for your plan

You are also likely to need evidence to support your plan (see section 3 below) and may need to demonstrate the policies or proposals in your plan are viable. The evidence requirements for a particular neighbourhood plan will depend on what it says, for example, the issues it covers and the level of detail it contains.

The Council will be happy to give you advice on the preparation of your plan both on content and on meeting the basic conditions. **We strongly advise that you to contact us prior to consulting on your draft plan for informal comments and advice**.

#### **Community engagement**

As mentioned above, you are advised to try to involve as much of the community, and the different elements within it, as possible. You are strongly encouraged to involve local businesses and landowners where possible. Not only do they have an important role in, and influence on, a neighbourhood, they can be a valuable source of advice, skills and resources for your neighbourhood plan.

If your plan includes the allocation of sites for development you need to have actively engaged with the landowner to find out their views, including on whether the site is available for development and whether they agree with what you are proposing.

You must:

- publicise the draft with those who live, work or carry on business in your neighbourhood area, letting them know how to respond and details of where and when it can be viewed;
- give people at least 6 weeks to respond;
- notify other people, organisations, neighbouring councils, and bodies whose interests may be affected by the plan, this should include the Environment Agency, English Heritage and Natural England; and
- send a copy of the draft to the Council.

# **Council publicises the draft plan**

Following the Forum's consultation on its draft neighbourhood plan and subsequent amendment, you can then submit the plan and supporting documentation to the Council. This is the stage prior to independent examination.

#### What the community should do

When you submit your draft neighbourhood plan to the Council you must include:

- a map or statement setting out the area it covers;
- a consultation statement that:
  - sets out the people and organisations that you consulted about the neighbourhood plan;
  - explains how they were consulted;
  - summarises the main issues that they raised; and
  - describes how you have considered these issues and, where relevant, how you addressed them in your draft neighbourhood plan;
- a statement explaining how your plan meets the legal requirements (basic conditions) these are set out above under 'preparing a neighbourhood plan'.

#### What the Council will do

When we receive a draft neighbourhood plan we will publicise it on our website and bring it to the attention of people who live, work or carry out business in the local area. We will also publicise the application in adjoining areas where we think this is appropriate.

We will check that the contents of the draft neighbourhood plan and the way that it has been prepared meet the statutory requirements. If the plan meets the requirements it is ready to be submitted for an independent examination (see below).

We will check whether the draft neighbourhood plan:

- has been prepared in accordance with the provisions introduced by the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012;
- is consistent with the strategic elements of the Council's planning policies;
- is consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF); and
- ▶ is in line with relevant planning, and other, legislation and regulations.

## Independent examination

When a neighbourhood plan has been consulted upon by the Council, it can then undergo an examination by an independent person. This person should be independent of the forum and the Council; not have any interest in any land affected; and have appropriate qualifications and experience. The Council will appoint an independent examiner in consultation with the neighbourhood forum, in line with the regulations. It is the Council, not the neighbourhood forum, who has to arrange and pay for the examination.

The examination will held as either a public hearing or through written submissions. The examiner can hold a public session if they think that is appropriate.

The examiner will check that the neighbourhood plan meets the required standards by being in line with the basic conditions and other legal requirements (see above), they will also consider:

- comments, supporting or objecting, made during consultation on the plan;
- whether the plan is consistent with any neighbourhood plans for adjacent areas; and
- whether the area for the referendum should extend beyond the neighbourhood area.

#### **Report of the examiner**

After the examination, the examiner will produce a report which will recommend that the neighbourhood plan should either:

- go forward to a referendum;
- go forward to a referendum, subject to recommended amendments; or
- not go forward to a referendum.

The Council and neighbourhood forum will then consider how to proceed; for example, what modifications to make to the plan in response to the examiner's recommendations.

If the examiner recommends that the plan should go forward to a referendum, they can recommend that the referendum extends beyond the neighbourhood area. If an extension of the area covered by the referendum is recommended the Council is required to make a decision on the referendum area informed by the independent examiner. If the area is extended the Council must publish a map of the referendum area.

If the examiner finds that the plan should not go forward to a referendum they must explain the reason for this in the report; for example, because particular a legal requirement has not been met.

# Local referendum

To ensure that the local community supports a neighbourhood plan and has the final say on whether it comes into force, plans passed at examination are subject to a referendum. (Neighbourhood Planning (Referendum) Regulations)

The referendum is organised and paid for by the Council. People living in the referendum area who are registered to vote in local elections will be entitled to vote.

Individuals who carry out business in the neighbourhood area do not have a right to vote on the neighbourhood plan, unless the neighbourhood was designated as a business area (this is defined at the outset of the process, at the area and forum application stage). For an area to be designated as a business area it would have to be dominated by business interests. In business areas there will be two referendums, one for those living in the area and the other for those carrying out business in the area.

It is the Council's duty to publicise the referendum on the Council's website 28 days prior to the referendum and make available an information statement and the 'specified documents'.

The information statement should specify:

- that a referendum will be held and the date of the referendum;
- the question to be asked;
- a map of the referendum area and neighbourhood area if not identical;
- a description of those entitled to vote;
- the referendum expenses limit applicable (this is the amount the neighbourhood forum can spend on campaigning during the referendum period) and the number of people identified as entitled to vote on which the
- limit was calculated;
  that the referendum will be conducted in accordance with procedures similar to those for local government election; and
- + the address and times a copy of the 'specified documents' can be inspected.

The 'specified documents' are:

- the draft neighbourhood plan;
- the independent examiners report;
- a summary of representations submitted to the examiner;
- a statement that the Council is satisfied that the plan meets the basic conditions; and
- general information on town and country planning and neighbourhood planning, to ensure voters have sufficient knowledge to make an informed decision.

If more than 50 per cent of people voting in the referendum support the plan, then the Council must use it in its planning decisions in the area alongside its other adopted plans (and the London Plan) as the basis for decisions on planning applications in the neighbourhood area. If less than 50 per cent of the people voting support the plan, then the Council cannot use the plan in its decisions.

# **3** Further support and information

## Support from the Council

In addition to this guide, the following sources of support and advice on neighbourhood planning are also available from the Council:

#### Camden Neighbourhood Planning webpage

Our neighbourhood planning webpage is intended to be a first stop for information and includes general advice and guidance on neighbourhood planning, information on community and stakeholder engagement and links to other documents and sources of information. You can access it using this link.

#### Neighbourhood planning support

We aim to provide support and advice on setting up a neighbourhood forum and preparing a plan and to answer any questions you have on neighbourhood planning. If you have any questions or would like to discuss neighbourhood planning with us, then please email the Strategic Planning and Information Team on planningpolicy@camden.gov.uk

Please note that the Council is not able to offer financial support for communities to prepare neighbourhood plans.

#### Maps

Paper and digital maps are available from Ordnance Survey (<u>http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk</u>) and their list of partners. The Council cannot supply Ordnance Survey maps.

Communities can make use of the Open Data Download service available from the Ordnance Survey website free of charge. This allows you to download maps for the area you are interested in and work on it with your own licence between yourself and the OS. (Please note that those maps will not have bespoke boundaries (i.e. conservation areas, neighbourhood areas etc.).

To use the Open Data Download service you will need to have GIS mapping software on your computer. Any architects, planners or surveyors in your neighbourhood should have access to GIS software. There are also websites that provide GIS downloads, many of which are free.

Once a neighbourhood forum has 21 members and a formally elected chair, it can request a Public Sector End User Licence Agreement. This must be signed by the Chair and the Council's GIS officer. This agreement widens your access to a range of highly detailed digital Ordnance Survey mapping products to aid the studies of your area. GIS layers and detailed maps would be provided in relation to your specific area. Please contact us of you are interested.

#### **Evidence and information**

The Council holds a large amount of information that can be used as background information and evidence for neighbourhood forums and plans. This includes:

- ward profiles and local area census information you can access these from the Camden data site <u>here</u>.
- studies carried out to provide evidence for the Council's Local Development Framework planning documents - you can view these <u>here</u>.

If there is any other information you require to help you prepare your neighbourhood plan, please email us at <u>planningpolicy@camden.gov.uk</u> and we can see if we can help.

## Other sources of information

You can also find further information and advice on neighbourhood planning from the following sources:

**LOCALITY** - administer government support for communities with neighbourhood planning. You can apply for direct support and /or grants. For further information please visit the 'my community rights' website.

**PLANNING ADVISORY SERVICE (PAS)** - have many useful documents on their website including frequently asked questions, examples from across the country and a neighbourhood planning map. You can access their website using the following <u>link.</u>

**How to Shape where you live: A GUIDE to NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING** – the CPRE have produced a very useful document which gives lots of advice on getting the most out of neighbourhood planning. You can view it from the following <u>link</u>.

**ROADMAP TO NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING** - Locality have prepared this helpful summary of the neighbourhood plan process and best practice advice. You can view it <u>here</u>.

**YOUR PLACE, YOUR PLAN** - the Town and Country Planning Association have produced a leaflet for community organisations, business and individuals looking to get involved in neighbourhood planning. The leaflet can be found <u>here.</u>

**PLACECHECK** – devised by Urban Design Skills and funded by English Heritage, this website provides information which communities can use as their evidence base for a Neighbourhood Plan. You can access the website at <a href="http://www.placecheck.info">http://www.placecheck.info</a>

**VOLUNTARY ACTION CAMDEN** – have recently published a report that contains some key ingredients, observations and lessons from the Somers Town and Bloomsbury Village neighbourhood planning projects. The report can be accessed <u>here.</u>

**OPEN SPACES SOCIETY** – national planning policy enables communities to identify green spaces or open space of particular importance for special protection within local and neighbourhood plans. The Open Spaces Society has published guidance to assist with the designation of Local Green Space and can be accessed <u>here.</u>

**LOCALISM NETWORK** - this is a network of professionals who give practical advice on all aspects of localism - <u>www.localismnetwork.org.uk</u>. They have also produced a guide to planning and localism which can be down loaded from the following <u>link</u>.

**CINDEX** – Camden's local community information database containing details of around 5,000 organisations and service; clubs and societies, council departments and services, community groups and associations, charities, political campaigns, statutory and government agencies. You can access the database <u>here</u>.

**LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS** - the rules and regulations that need to be followed are set out in the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. You can see these at the following links:

- Localism Act 2011 schedule 9
- Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012
- Neighbourhood Planning (Referendum) Regulations 2012