

Neighbourhood Plans and the Vanguard Neighbourhood Plan for Ringmer

Monday 6 June 2011
East Sussex Rural Partnership meeting
Wartling



Overview of presentation

- What are the drivers behind the Localism Bill?
- What is the Bill proposing for the planning system?
- When will be the Bill be enacted?
- Key principles of the new Neighbourhood Planning System.
- Neighbourhood Planning Vanguard Scheme – Ringmer
- Stages in the production of the Neighbourhood plan

What are the drivers behind the Bill?

- Localism – the ethos of doing things at the most localised level and only involving central Government if necessary.
- Decentralisation – is what has to happen to achieve the above.
- Big Society – what is trying to be achieved.



When will the changes occur?

- At present the Bill is being considered by the House of Lords before the summer recess.
- The Bill is not expected to receive Royal Assent until late 2011.
- Secondary legislation in Spring.

What is being proposed for the planning system?

- Key message – a significant change to the planning system is being proposed
- Most of the changes are focussed on the planning policy system
- Government want to increase the rate of house building – See Neighbourhood Plans as one way to achieve this




“When people know that they will get proper support to cope with the demands of new development; when they have a proper say over what new homes will look like; and when they can influence where those homes go, they have reasons to say “yes” to growth”.

Greg Clark MP, 18/11/10

Planning at the Neighbourhood Level

- Providing communities the opportunity to prepare planning policies for their area.
- It will be a community initiated process.
- Not compulsory – an opportunity rather than a requirement.
- Neighbourhood forum – where there is not a town or parish council (or not willing)
- Part of the development Plan
- Would not have to cover the whole parish/town
- Must have regard to national policy, be in conformity with strategic policies



Vanguard Scheme – Ringmer Neighbourhood Plan

- Department of Communities and Local Government Vanguard Scheme – Bid by Lewes District Council in partnership with SDNPA and Ringmer Parish Council
- Experience of plan making of vanguards will inform secondary legislation and guidance
- Arrangements for public consultation, Issues being addresses, examination process
- Sharing of knowledge with Front runners, link officers and DCLG



Progress so far:

- Inception meeting with Ringmer Parish Council, National Park Authority and Department of Communities and Local Government
- Role of DCLG Link Officers
- Expectations of 'Frontrunner' Local Authorities



Next Stages for the emerging Ringmer Neighbourhood Plan

- Plan prepared by local community with LDC providing support and advice (also National Park, AiRS et al)
- Extensive community engagement
- Examined by independent examiner (fit with Local development plan, national policy)
- Proceed to referendum seeking adoption (simple majority progress to adoption)
- Neighbourhood Plan adopted by local authority

Key messages

- Process of plan making of Ringmer Neighbourhood Plan will be feedback to Link officer from CLG to inform emerging legislation
- Lewes District Council still need to prepare a Core Strategy for the District
- Neighbourhood Planning is voluntary
- The District Council/National Park will support the process, but it will not be for us to write the plan.

Any Questions?

For information on the evolving
Neighbourhood Plan for Ringmer contact:

Susie Mullins, Lewes District Council

01273 484418

susie.mullins@lewes.gov.uk

