An introduction to Neighbourhood Planning

Alison Eardley
The Facts

• Gives communities the chance to decide how their local area should develop and what should be built

• Powerful: once ‘made’ the neighbourhood plan becomes part of the development plan

• Needs to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the local plan
62% of the 336 local planning authorities contain designated neighbourhood areas (St Albans: Sandridge Parish Council, Colney Heath Parish Council, Redbourn Parish Council, St Stephen Parish Council)

Average turn-out to referendums: 34%

Average numbers voting yes: 89%
Communities are showing ambition

• To choose where housing should go

• To control the size of new developments

• To fix housing density

• To set a boundary for new development

• To grant a planning permission
It’s not just about housing

• To protect green spaces

• To choose where new industry and employment should go

• To design out crime

• To protect gaps between towns and villages

• Define what makes up local heritage and secure it
Interesting things are happening...

• Some areas are moving from anti to pro development

• Some are choosing ‘extra’ housing

• They are growing in confidence and capability

• Relationships with Local Planning Authorities are strengthening
The process

Steering Group -> Designate -> Community engagement

Evidence collection -> Initial draft

consultation -> Second draft

Submission for examination -> Referendum
Some useful resources


• [http://www.ourneighbourhoodplanning.org.uk/home](http://www.ourneighbourhoodplanning.org.uk/home)

• My community rights - [http://mycommunity.org.uk/](http://mycommunity.org.uk/)

• LinkedIn Neighbourhood Planning Group

• Pinterest - [https://uk.pinterest.com/nplanning/neighbourhood-plans/](https://uk.pinterest.com/nplanning/neighbourhood-plans/)