

## PARISHES LIAISON MEETING – 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2012

### NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING – BRIEFING NOTE

In response to the Localism Act, the Council is assisting local communities by providing guidance on neighbourhood planning. It has prepared a guide entitled "My Neighbourhood: A Neighbourhood Planning Protocol for B&NES". This includes an update to the existing Statement for Community Involvement for Planning. This draft document was published for six-weeks public consultation ending on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2012. It is available via the dedicated website [www.bathnes.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning) that also contains the latest information on guidance, events and funding etc.

We are now considering consultation responses, and will be taking to amended document to Cabinet in September 2012 for adoption.

Comments have been overwhelmingly positive, and B&NES is one of the only authorities to have launched this type of guidance. Detailed points relate to issues such as:

- Need to include cross references community engagement in planning enforcement, listed building applications
- Need to include some links to additional information in relation to issues such as Assets of Community Value
- Need to reflect final version of the Neighbourhood Planning regulations (based on the draft although no significant changes)
- More detail needs to be added in relation to criteria for Neighbourhood Forum applications in Bath
- Additional groups to be named as non-statutory or statutory consultees
- Arrangements related to Planning Application consultation

Freshford Parish Council is preparing a joint Neighbourhood Plan for completion June 2013 with Limpley Stoke Parish Council, and have secured Frontrunner funding from the Government. They are the only Parish Council in the area to have embarked officially on the process, although interest has also been expressed in other areas across the district including potential Neighbourhood Forums within Bath.

A quick online survey of Parishes, Town Councils and community/resident/amenity groups in Bath is planned for summer 2012 to gauge potential interest in Neighbourhood Planning and to help plan future events and support in relation to this issue.

The Council would like to notify Parish Councils that in addition to their support, the West of England Rural Network would like to make it known that they can provide advice on Community-led planning and Neighbourhood Planning and can discuss ideas with you or provide help information about funding or other local projects. This can also include visiting individual Parishes on request. To find out more contact Chris Head via their website: [www.wern.org.uk](http://www.wern.org.uk)

