

**Parish Liaison Meeting  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

**The New B&NES “Neighbourhood Planning Protocol” (NPP)**

- 3.1 The Neighbourhood Planning Protocol sets out how the community, stakeholders, businesses and interested parties can be active in planning in their neighbourhood. For example via:

- New powers of Neighbourhood Planning being introduced by the coalition government’s Localism Bill\*
- Review of the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI): Involvement in the preparation of local planning policies and site/development briefs and in the determination of planning applications, including pre-application activities

*\*Note:* Other elements of the Localism Bill such as community right to buy and community right to challenge are being considered by a corporate officer group led by Andy Thomas (Policy and Partnerships).

- 3.2 The programme for the Neighbourhood Planning Protocol is as follows:

| <b>Neighbourhood Planning Protocol timetable</b>  |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| Preparation of draft<br>(including Parish/Town Council/Residents<br>Associations focus group) | July – October 2011   |
| Public consultation   | December/January 2011 |
| Parish and Town Council event   | December 2011         |
| Adopt   | May 2012              |

**So far**

- 3.3 The focus group which includes representatives from Batheaston Parish Council, Combe Hay Parish Council, Keynsham Town Council, Midsomer Norton Town Council, Paulton Parish Council, Radstock Town Council, Saltford Parish Council, and Federation of Bath Residents Association has met on two occasions. The group has considered the scope of the Neighbourhood Planning Protocol and in particular the new elements relating to Neighbourhood Planning.
- 3.4 Key messages have included:
- Keen for limited guidance for preparing Neighbourhood Plans with support available (rather than strict guidelines)
  - Keen for a Parish/Community Plan conversion process
  - Need some structure for Neighbourhood Forums coming forward (in Bath)
- 3.5 Following initial steer from the group at the first meeting, the second meeting looked in more detail at the draft approach and criteria for Neighbourhood Forum Designation. Whilst a Neighbourhood Forum will automatically be the Parish/Town Council where they exist, the experience of the Parish and Town Councillors has been used to help develop the processes for designation and operation in the city of Bath.

**Next Steps**

- 3.6 The results of the focus group will be considered by officers and Council Members in preparing the draft NPP. If approved at Cabinet on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2011, a public consultation will take place from Dec 2011- Jan 2012. The consultation will include an event for all Parish and Town Councils.