

Localism



Rt. Hon. Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government 7 June 2010

“Our first priority is Localism, and our second priority is also Localism.

Can you guess what our third priority is?”



What is localism?

The Conservative party wants nothing less than radical decentralisation, to reach every corner of the country. There are plans to give people a much greater say over the issues that affect their daily lives; plans to give local councils much more responsibility and power; and plans to actually reshape the way political power is structured in this country.

Guardian 17th February 2009



What is localism?

The Coalition:
our programme
for government

HM Government

In the longer term, we will radically reform the planning system to give neighbourhoods far more ability to determine the shape of the places in which their inhabitants live



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What is localism?

‘Recent academic research has found collaborative democracy – the idea that citizens should be actively involved in making the kind of decisions hitherto reserved for bureaucrats and elected representatives – to be a highly successful concept.’

OPEN SOURCE
PLANNING
GREEN PAPER



 Conservatives

YEAR
FOR
CHANGE



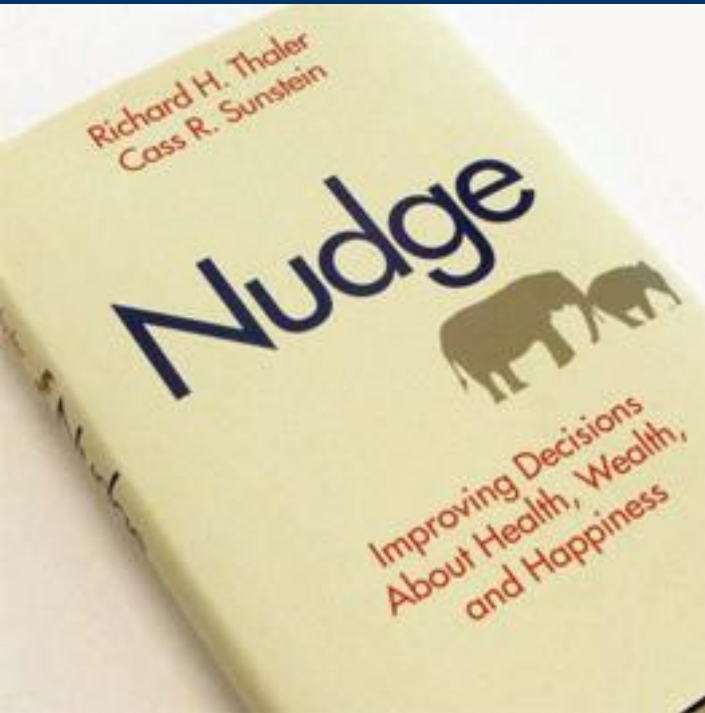
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What is localism?



‘... better governance requires less in the way of government coercion and constraint, and more in the way of freedom to choose. If incentives and nudges replace requirements and bans, government will be both smaller and more modest.’

www.flickr.com



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What is localism?

"Local people everywhere know the frustration of watching their town centre decline, their library shut or local crime rising. Here in Balsall Heath a network of local volunteers took the initiative and reclaimed their streets by thinking 'we can do better'.

"... their Neighbourhood Forum really represents local voices who have reshaped their community and made it a better place to live. They are the Big Society in action and other community groups can look to them as a perfect example of people power.

Greg Clark MP 21st September 2010



What is localism?

The Lockleaze area of Bristol was facing significant redevelopment. This was being led by outside organisations who, whilst they wished to involve the local community, were struggling to find a representative group with whom they could engage.

Planning Aid in Action: Lockleaze, Bristol

"When setting up Lockleaze Voice the help from South West Planning Aid allowed us to give our group a reason and a focus. We would not have been able to progress our plan as far as we have without this assistance."

Robert Hall, Committee Member, Lockleaze Voice

The Lockleaze area of Bristol was facing significant redevelopment. This was being led by outside organisations who whilst they wished to involve the local community, were struggling to find a representative group with whom they could engage. Planning Aid helped to set up a community group, called Lockleaze Voice, who have played a significant and valuable role in influencing the future shape of their local area.



Lockleaze Voice:

- Represents 4000 households.
- Is led by the community.
- Has now been going for about two years.
- Holds regular meetings to continue to involve local people in their area.
- Has produced its own Vision / Community led plan for the area.
- Is now involved in wider civic engagement.



Planning Aid helped the community to:

- Set up Lockleaze Voice.
- Understand the planning process.
- Provided expert professional, technical experience.
- Facilitated community meetings and brokered agreements.
- Express views in a way in which they would be heard.



Planning Aid helps disadvantaged communities play an equal part in the future of their local areas.

Planning Aid England 0121 214 2900 www.rtpi.org.uk/planningaid



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What is localism?

“It is not merely landowners in the area who are affected or even business interests. Too often in the past the objections of a noisy minority have been allowed to drown the voices of other people vitally affected. These too must have their say, and when they have had it, the provisional plan may need a good deal of alteration, but it will be all the better for that since it will reflect actual needs democratically expressed. In the past, plans have been too much the plans of officials and not the plans of individuals, but I hope we are going to stop that.”

Town and Country Planning Act, 1947.

10 & 11 GEO. 6. CH. 51.

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS.

PART I.

CENTRAL AND LOCAL ADMINISTRATION.

- Sections.
1. The Minister.
 2. The Central Land Board.
 3. General provisions as to functions of Central Land Board.
 4. Local planning authorities, etc.

PART II.

DEVELOPMENT PLANS.

5. Surveys of planning areas and preparation of development plans.
6. Amendment of development plans.
7. Additional powers of Minister with respect to development plans.
8. Incorporation in development plans of orders relating to trunk roads and new towns.
9. Modification of development plans in relation to land designated as subject to compulsory acquisition.
10. Supplementary provisions as to development plans.
11. Validity and date of operation of development plans.

PART III.

CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT, ETC.

Permission to develop land.

12. Obligation to obtain permission for development.
13. Development orders.
14. Applications to local planning authorities for permission.
15. Reference of applications to Minister.
16. Appeals to Minister.
17. Applications to determine whether permission required.
18. Supplementary provisions as to grant of permission.
19. Obligation to purchase land on refusal of permission in certain cases.

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Rt. Hon. Lewis Silkin MP 3rd
Reading of Town and
Country Planning Bill, 1947



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What is localism?

THE PEOPLE'S PLAN FOR THE ROYAL DOCKS



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What is localism?

“I would like, when the space ship arrives from Alpha Centura and lands in the middle of Barnsley and goes up to No 23 Acacia Ave, and the spaceling says to the lady that answers the door: 'take me to your leader,' she would say 'I'm in charge'. Localism is in charge.”

Daily Telegraph 13th August 2010



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The Localism Bill

Localism Bill

A B I L L

[AS AMENDED IN PUBLIC BILL COMMITTEE]

To make provision about the functions and procedures of local and certain other authorities; to make provision about the functions of the Local Commission for Administration in England; to enable the recovery of financial sanctions imposed by the Court of Justice of the European Union on the United Kingdom from local and public authorities; to make provision about local government finance; to make provision about town and country planning, the Community Infrastructure Levy and the authorization of nationally significant infrastructure projects; to make provision about social and other housing; to make provision about regeneration in London; and for connected purposes.

*Secretary Eric Pickles
supported by
The Prime Minister, The Deputy Prime Minister,
Secretary Caroline Spelman, Secretary Jeremy Hunt,
Francis Maude, Mr Olivier Letwin, Mr Nick Hurd, Greg Clark,
Andrew Stunell and Robert Neill.*

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
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Bill 161

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- Neighbourhood Planning
- Neighbourhood Development Orders
- Community Right to Build
- Pre-application consultation
- Local Referendums
- Community Right to Challenge
- Community Assets
- Community Infrastructure Levy
- New Homes Bonus



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The Localism Bill

- **Neighbourhood Development Orders & Community Right to Build**

A community organisation, formed by members of the local community, will be able to bring forward development proposals which, providing they meet minimum criteria and can demonstrate local support through a referendum, will be able to go ahead without requiring a separate traditional planning application

- **Pre-application consultation**

Requirement on developers to consult on major developments before an application is made



The Localism Bill

- **Local Referendums**
Ability of 5 per cent of electorate to call for a referendum
- **Community Assets – Community Right to Buy**
local authorities to maintain a list of assets of community value. Communities will have the opportunity to nominate for possible inclusion the assets that are most important to them. When listed assets come up for sale or change of ownership, community groups will have time to develop a bid and raise the money to buy the asset when it comes on the open market.
- **Community Infrastructure Levy & New Homes Bonus**
A government commitment to pass a meaningful amount to communities

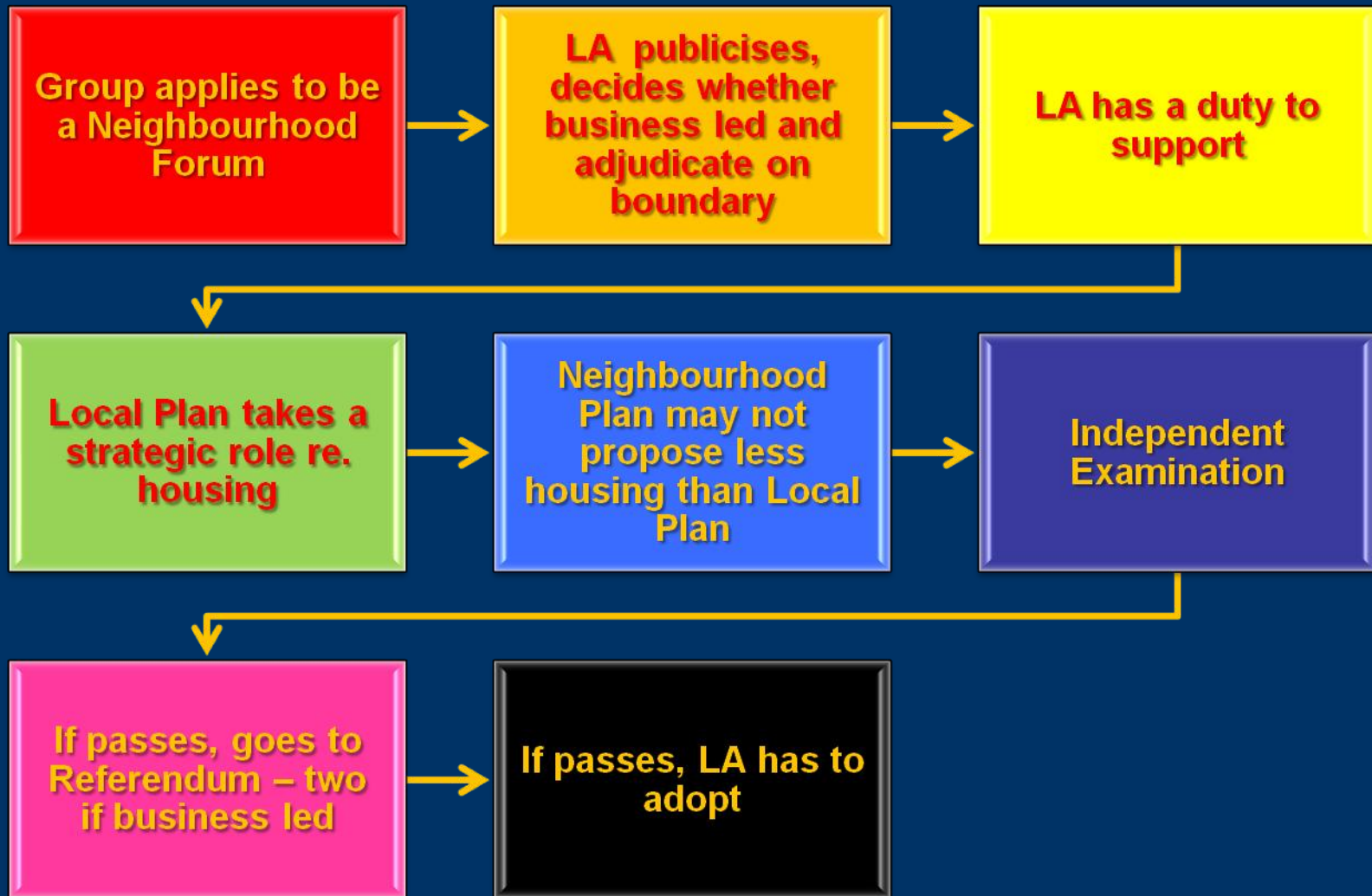


The Challenges

- The process
- The thrust of Government policy
- The limits to localism
- Strategic issues
- Presumption in favour
- Resistance to development
- Resources



The Process



The thrust of Government policy

The Coalition:
our programme
for government

 HM Government

We recognise that deficit reduction, and continuing to ensure economic recovery, is the most urgent issue facing Britain.



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The thrust of Government policy

 HM Government

The Natural Choice:
securing the value
of nature



We propose that green spaces should be identified in neighbourhood plans and local plans which complement and do not undermine investment in homes, jobs and other essential services.



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The presumption in favour

Applying the presumption in favour of sustainable development in this context will mean:

- local plans should be prepared on the basis that objectively assessed development needs are met;
- development proposals that accord with these plans should be promptly approved; and
- where planning policies are out of date or a plan is silent or unclear on a particular development, approval should be granted.

This presumption should apply unless to do so would cause significant harm to the objectives, principles and policies set out in this National Planning Policy Framework.



The limits to Localism

... local people in each neighbourhood will be able to specify what kind of development and use of land they want to see in their area. This will lead to a fundamental and long overdue rebalancing of power, away from the centre and back into the hands of local people.



The limits to Localism

... giving every neighbourhood the chance to shape its own development through the creation of neighbourhood plans, which will give local communities greater flexibility and the freedom to bring forward more development than set out in the local authority plan.

Neighbourhood plans will need to respect the overall national presumption in favour of sustainable development, as well as other local strategic priorities such as the positioning of transport links and meeting housing need.

Local growth: realising every place's potential

 HM Government



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The limits to Localism

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The limits to Localism

“They want new housing limited to 1,000 and think 36 hectares of new employment land excessive. In short, Ryedale District Council’s vision for Malton and Norton is an expanded urbanised sprawl, whereas the towns want to maintain the essential features and character of a country market town.”

Mobile site | News feed | E-Newsletters | Wednesday, 13 April 2011

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Neighbourhood Plan set out for Malton and Norton

11:36am Wednesday 30th March 2011

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PLANS have been put forward to create a 'neighbourhood plan' for Malton and Norton.

The aim of the plan is to offer members of the community an opportunity to set out what developments the majority of those who live and work in the area would like to see for the future of the two towns.

A group has formed to come up with a draft plan which, after consultation with the public and adoption by the two town councils, would be put forward to Ryedale District Council for consideration alongside the Ryedale Plan.

Coun Paul Andrews, a district and town councillor, said there was concern Ryedale District Council had its own agenda for Malton and Norton which was opposed by both towns.



Paul Andrews, Denys Townsend, Emma Brooksbank and David Lloyd Williams, are among those behind the plan



MOST READ **MOST COMMENTS**

1. Village row erupts over closure of historic pub
2. 50 youths caught in drinking crackdown

The Limits to Localism

“For years too many streets across the country have been ruined by a tasteless jumble of shop signs, railings and billboards, and the people who live there have been left powerless to clear away this clutter.

Well enough's enough. We want to give power back to local people so they can decide what their neighbourhoods look like.”

CLG Press Release 6th June 2011



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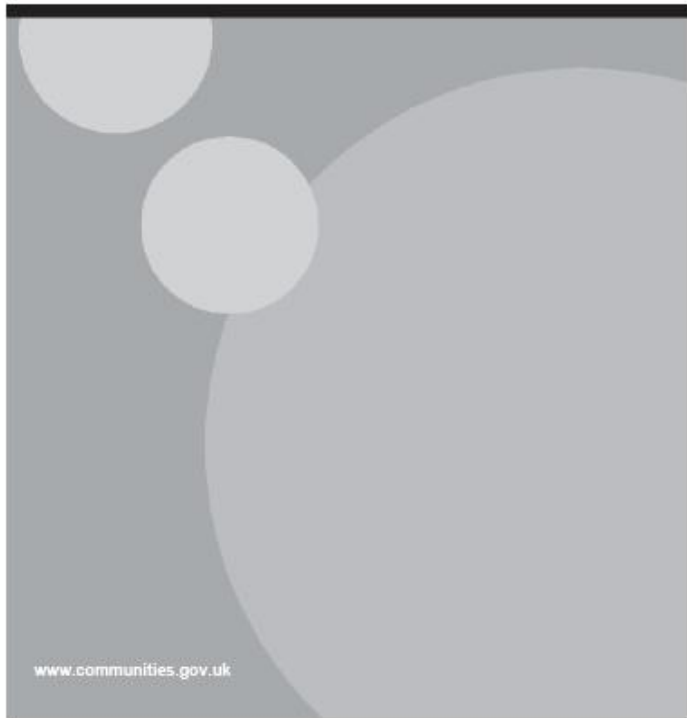
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Resources



Localism Bill: neighbourhood plans and community right to build
Impact assessment



The cost of preparing a neighbourhood plans will be met partly by the local authority and partly by the promoters of the neighbourhood plans. In the initial years, there will be some financial support from Central Government. The average costs are estimated at £17,000 to £63,000 per plan.



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Resistance to Development

An emergency meeting saw more than 200 people attend after a planning application for 18 homes on land in Lingfield, was submitted. The homes, if granted permission, would be built to give affordable homes to local people. But villagers who attended the meeting believe the application was the "thin end of a very large wedge".

"We do not want an urban sprawl in the countryside," he added. "There is no proven case for affordable housing in Lingfield and no guarantee that the homes will only be for Lingfield people."

this is Surrey Today



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Resistance to Development

A YouGov survey commissioned by the New Homes Marketing Board has revealed that more than eight in ten people (81 per cent) believe Britain needs more housing for sale and rent, especially affordable homes for first-time buyers.

It also shows that far fewer - just 50 per cent - would welcome more homes of all types in their own immediate neighbourhoods.

Buildingtalk 22nd March 2011



Help is at hand

(1) A local planning authority must give such advice or assistance to qualifying bodies as ... they consider appropriate for the purpose of ... facilitating the making of proposals for neighbourhood development orders.

(2) Nothing in this paragraph is to be read as requiring the giving of financial assistance.

Localism Bill

A B I L L

[AS AMENDED IN PUBLIC BILL COMMITTEE]

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*Secretary Eric Pickles
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The Prime Minister, The Deputy Prime Minister,
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Help is at hand

community
planning.net

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the community planning website helping people shape their cities, towns and villages in any part of the world

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awards

This website was a Finalist in the 2009 Royal Town Planning Institute Awards for advancing *'significantly the science and art of town planning'*
[Press release and shortlist](#)



 Our Facebook community

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RTPI

mediation of space · making of place



Planning Aid

England

Engaging Communities in Planning

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RTPI home

Planning Aid England provides free, independent and professional planning advice to communities and individuals who cannot afford to pay professional fees.

Planning Aid Adviceline:

Tel: 0330 123 9244

email: advice@planningaid.rtpi.org.uk

Planning Aid Adviceline:

This service will provide fifteen minutes of free professional advice to all callers. Eligible callers may then receive further professional advice through a network of professional volunteers, who give their services free

Latest News

Date

10-01-2011

3-12-2010

[More](#)

Title

[RTPI responds to neighbourhood planning fund announcement](#)

[Planning Aid England: Statement](#)

The following Planning Aid England (PAE) publications may help with your enquiry:

- Neighbourhood Planning Rising to the challenge
- Good practice guide to



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Help is at hand

Neighbourhood Planning – Rising to the Challenge

Changes to the planning system set out in the Localism Bill will give people new rights to shape the future of their local areas. Neighbourhood planning will allow people to come together to say where they think new houses, businesses and shops should go, what they should look like, and in some cases grant planning consent for these developments.

Parish Councils and neighbourhood forums will have the right to prepare neighbourhood plans and neighbourhood development orders for their local areas. These can be as simple or as detailed as people want and provided that they are in line with national planning policy, the local plan and other legal requirements, and local people vote to approve them, they will form a new local level of the planning system.

How do I get involved in planning the future of my area?

- If you have a Parish Council, they will lead neighbourhood planning in your area.
- Elsewhere community groups can apply to be designated as a neighbourhood forum*. They will define the area they would like to 'plan' and ask the local council to agree this. The council will have the final say on the area to be planned and on whether a group will be recognised as a neighbourhood forum.

What happens next?

- Local councils will be required to provide technical advice and support to help neighbourhoods draw up their plans.
- The draft plan / order will be considered by an independent assessor who will prepare a report for the Parish Council / neighbourhood forum and local council to consider.
- Provided the plan / order is in line with national planning policy, the local plan and other legal requirements, a referendum will be held.
- If over 50% of those voting do so in favour, the plan / order will be brought into effect and will form a new local level of the planning system.

*To be a Neighbourhood Forum a group must be open to anyone in the area to join; it must have more than three residents from the area; a written constitution and the objectives of furthering social, economic and environmental well-being. The council can reject an application to be a neighbourhood forum on the basis, amongst other things, that the group is not representative.

How will parish councils and Neighbourhood Forums involve everybody?

Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Forums will organise and facilitate the process of plan preparation and help develop a local approach to shaping the future of their area.

Successful neighbourhood planning will be built from balanced, inclusive and widespread involvement of local people in the process.

Whilst no 'perfect recipe' exists, there are some key ingredients which will help:

- Start with questions, not answers.
- Focus on what people care about – this will help motivate and engage them.
- Recognise and respect that people have different views, but each is equally important.
- Seek out and involve people and groups who you would not normally work or interact with – not just those that you know.
- Monitor who gets involved and who does not – then try to find a way to include them.
- Use different approaches for different people and different ways to catch attention.
- Good engagement inspires and motivates, it generates enthusiasm and commitment and importantly, should be enjoyable and rewarding for all those involved.

The role of the Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum is to facilitate and organise the process, and to help people develop local solutions which will shape the future of their local areas.

Planning Aid England 0121 214 2900 www.rtpi.org.uk/planningaid

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Where are we on the ladder?

Citizen Control

Delegated Power

Partnership

Placation

Consultation

Informing

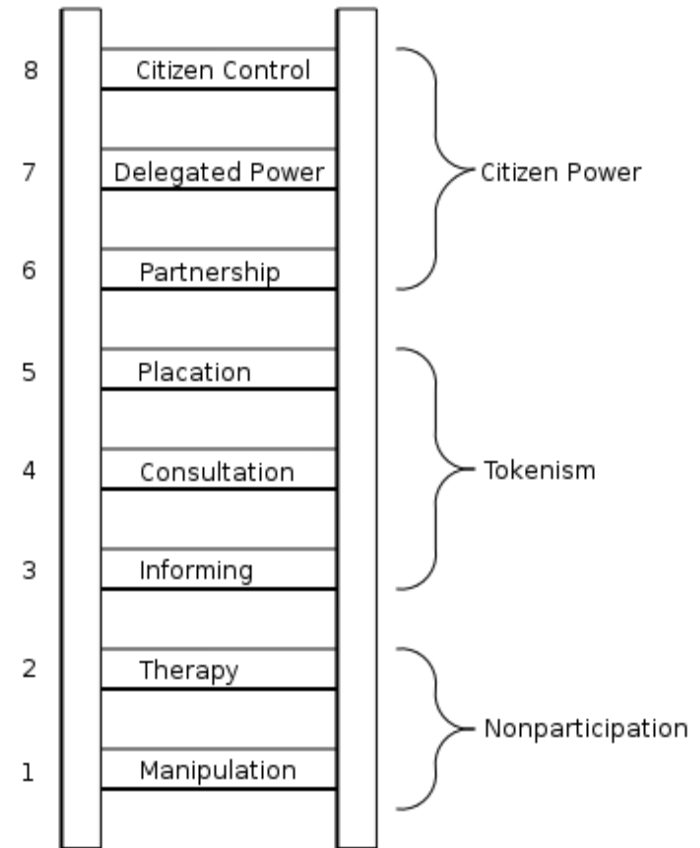
Therapy

Manipulation

**Degrees of
Citizen
Power**

**Degrees of
Tokenism**

**Non
participation**



Sherry Arnstein's Ladder of Citizen Participation 1969



kelvin@spatialeffects.co.uk



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