

Charnwood Borough Council Factsheet 3 – General Principles for Neighbourhood Plans

What Neighbourhood Plans can and can't do

A neighbourhood plan can:

- Decide where and what type of development should happen in the neighbourhood;
- Promote more development than is set out in the local plan; and
- Include policies, for example regarding design standards that take precedence over existing policies in the local plan for the neighbourhood provided the neighbourhood plan policies do not conflict with the strategic policies in the local plan.

A neighbourhood plan cannot:

- Conflict with the strategic policies in the local plan prepared by the local planning authority;
- Be used to prevent development that is included in the local plan; and
- Be prepared by a body other than a parish or town council or a neighbourhood forum.

Contents of neighbourhood plans

Typical things a neighbourhood plan might include:

- The development of housing, including affordable housing, and bringing vacant or derelict housing back into use;
- Provision for businesses to set up or expand their premises;
- Transport and access (including issues around roads, cycling, walking and access for disabled people);
- The development of schools, places of worship, health facilities, leisure and entertainment facilities, community and youth centres and village halls;
- The restriction of certain types of development and change of use, for example to avoid too much of one type of use (where this doesn't conflict with the local plan);
- The design of buildings;
- Protection and creation of open space, nature reserves, allotments, sports pitches, play areas, parks and gardens, and the planting of trees;
- Protection of important buildings and historic assets such as archaeological remains; and
- Promotion of renewable energy projects such as solar energy and wind turbines.