

Guide to...writing policies

Putting the Historic Environment in your Neighbourhood Development Plan

In November 2015 Historic England and the SDNPA held a workshop on Neighbourhood Planning and the historic environment. Delegates heard how a good understanding of your local heritage can reveal forgotten links to the past. Including heritage in your plan can ensure all these elements continue to tell the story of the parish and its people through time. By including heritage in NDPs, you can choose the best ways for your area to develop and grow.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) says plans should conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations. Heritage assets include nationally designated features (e.g. Listed Buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Registered Battlefields, Parks & Gardens) and un-designated assets identified by the LPA (this includes Local Listing).

The SDNPA will be preparing a Local List in due course. NDPs can nominate buildings or structures to be included following these [guidelines](#).



Identifying local heritage assets in your NDP

The NPPF also says that the effect of a proposal on a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining a planning application. Using your NDP you can identify and identify locally significant heritage assets which will be a material consideration in planning decisions.

Neighbourhood Plan groups have used this to recognise the importance of local heritage buildings and structures in their area such as the Festival Hall in Petersfield and the Old Post Office & Old Rectory in Clapham.

The **Historic Environment Record** is a good place to start for information on your local heritage. The HER contains details of known historic and archaeological sites and finds within an area and is maintained by from your County Council or District if you live in Chichester or Winchester districts.

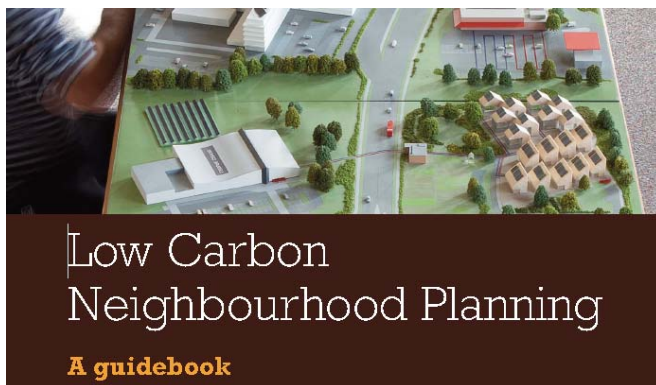
Examples of NDPs which have developed evidence and policies to protect and enhance their historic environment include:

- Wisborough Green Policy EN4 *Conserving & Enhancing the Heritage Environment*
- Cheddington Policy 5: *Southend Hill & Westend Hill Heritage Asset & Special Landscape*
- Tettenhall Neighbourhood Plan Character Study

Low carbon Neighbourhood Planning

Guidance on integrating climate change into your Neighbourhood Plan

The Centre for Sustainable Energy has published new guidance for neighbourhood plan groups to help you research and develop evidence and draft policies to address climate change. The guidance covers both planning policies you might want to include in your Plan and actions or initiatives which the community may want to pursue.



Mitigating climate change: energy efficiency

The guidance explains how energy efficiency in new homes has been streamlined into Building Regulations, which are becoming increasingly stringent. This means that Neighbourhood Plans are not able to require more stringent standards in respects of energy efficiency than are required to meet Building Regulations. There are however, examples of neighbourhood plan policies which support energy efficiency of new developments. There are also suggestions on how you might address the retrofitting of energy efficiency in historic buildings.

Adapting to Climate Change: flooding & extreme weather

Examples from East Preston illustrate how communities can integrate policies which support measures to avoid flooding and manage surface water flooding within their Neighbourhood Plan. There are also a number of community actions that can you explore, including:

- Promote tree planting to increase infiltration levels
- Appoint & train a community flood warden
- Encourage residents to register with the Environment Agency's Floodline.

The emerging South Downs Local Plan policy on *Climate Change and Sustainable Construction* will provide the strategic policy on climate change for the National Park. With the help of this guidance you may want to develop locally distinctive policies which also respond to climate change in your area.

Top tips for writing Neighbourhood Plan policies

1. Make sure you distinguish between land use planning policies and community aspirations / projects.

2. Avoid repeating national policy & guidance or adopted Local Plan policy. Even when the issue is a local concern, adding an additional layer of neighbourhood policy risks confusing, diluting or conflicting with established planning policy at a higher level.

3. Make the most of your evidence to create locally distinctive policies, this may include a recent Village Design Statement, Local Landscape Character Assessment or Conservation Area Appraisal.

4. Look at these guides on writing planning policies:

['Writing planning policies'](#)

['How to write planning policies'](#)