

To the residents of Birlingham from Birlingham Parish Council

Neighbourhood Plans

For many years communities were encouraged to produce their individual Parish Plans and Parish Design Statements. These allowed residents to express their views on the nature and location of housing developments and service provision in their parish and were accepted by local councils as a consideration in their forward planning.

The Government, as part of its localism policy, has strengthened the ability of communities to influence their local environment by the introduction of Neighbourhood Plans. Parish Plans are now in effect superseded.

The essentials of Neighbourhood Plans are:

- They allow residents to influence the location, design and dispersion of new housing, provision of infrastructure, green space etc.
- They have legal status and planners and developers must take them into account.
- Groups of parishes can work together to produce plans for a defined area.
- Once a plan is accepted the parish can benefit from a 25% share of the new Community Infrastructure Levy.

Completion of a Neighbourhood Plan requires the full co-operation and involvement of the community and is a lengthy process. Most parishes find it necessary to employ consultants and only limited financial support is available from public funds.

A number of parishes in Worcestershire are preparing plans and Birlingham Parish Council is keen to promote the process in the village.

We are therefore asking for volunteers who would be ready to undertake this work under the guidance of the Parish Council

Would anyone who would like to join the planning team please contact the Parish Clerk, June Hiden, by writing to Lamorna, Broadway Road, Birlingham WR10 3AF or emailing birlingham_clerk@yahoo.co.uk.