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## Neighbourhood Planning FAQs

### What is Neighbourhood Planning?

- ❖ Neighbourhood planning is a relatively new type of planning document, introduced by the Localism Act 2011, to work alongside the District Council's strategic planning policies
- ❖ A neighbourhood plan is a community-led framework for guiding future development, regeneration and conservation within a specific area, known as the Neighbourhood Area Boundary
- ❖ Neighbourhood plans can establish planning policies and allocate land for development, as long as these are in accordance with national and district policies. For example, a Neighbourhood Plan cannot allocate less than the required number of homes, which have been allotted in the District Council's Local Plan
- ❖ Neighbourhood plans introduce new powers to allow communities to set their own priorities for development, within the area boundary, including where new development should go and what it should look like
- ❖ A plan could explore issues relating to transport, community, housing, air quality, sustainability and employment
- ❖ Once adopted, any planning applications that fall within the Neighbourhood Area Boundary will be assessed against the relevant policies contained within the neighbourhood plan, as well as any other relevant policies that may already be in place, such as within the District Council's Local Plan
- ❖ The Neighbourhood Area Boundary also determines who will get to vote in the referendum. This will be all those who live in the neighbourhood area and qualify to vote in local council elections

### Who is responsible?

- ❖ The Town Council is legally responsible for the delivery of the neighbourhood Plan and will co-ordinate the plan-making process. However, the wider community is encouraged to become actively involved in the plan-making process
- ❖ The Wallingford Neighbourhood Plan will be adopted and become part of the District Council's development plan for the area, if successful at referendum

- ❖ A person is entitled to vote if at the time of the referendum, they meet the eligibility criteria to vote in a local election for the area, if they live in the referendum area and they are on the electoral roll

### How much will it cost?

- ❖ Approximately £65,000. Government grant money is available to help Wallingford Town Council prepare the plan and the Town Council has allocated additional money in it's budget

### Why is the Town Council producing a Neighbourhood Plan?

- ❖ To allow the community to shape development and have a say in the future of the town
- ❖ To ensure the town benefits from the Community Infrastructure Levey (CIL). The CIL allows local authorities to raise funds from developers undertaking new building projects in their area. The money can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure that is needed as a result of development. This includes new or safer road schemes, flood defences, schools, hospitals, park improvements, green spaces and leisure centres.

### How can I find out more?

- ❖ Everything is available online at [www.wallingford.co.uk/neighbourhoodplan](http://www.wallingford.co.uk/neighbourhoodplan)
- ❖ Please contact the Neighbourhood Plan Project Manager, Rachel Rae.

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