



RTPI

mediation of space · making of place



Planning Aid

England

Engaging Communities in Planning

Planning Aid England

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Planning Aid England relaunched in June 2011

Volunteer led service

- National planning advice line service with volunteer supported casework
- Outreach community & neighbourhood activities delivered by teams of volunteers

Planning advice line maintained since end of March 2011





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Ethos of Planning Aid remains the same:

- To empower individuals, groups and communities from financially disadvantaged and socially excluded backgrounds to participate in the planning process
- To help make the planning system more open, accessible, inclusive, and democratic, thereby helping to raise and maintain public confidence in the system





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Objectives remain the same - with focus on 20% 'IMD'

- To provide free, independent, professional planning advice to people who do not have the means to pay professional fees
- To provide support and training to local communities to influence and contribute to planning strategy, policy and decision making at all levels
- To promote and help deliver better practices in community engagement in a range of organisations
- To improve skills in planning and community engagement

In support of RTPI charitable purposes





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In the context of significant changes to Planning

- Localism Bill
 - Neighbourhood Plans
 - Abolition of Regional Spatial Strategies
- Planning for Growth
- National Planning Policy
- Presumption in favour of sustainable development





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Advice Line

Offers 15 minutes of free independent advice to the public, handling 1600+ enquiries since the end of March 2011

- 60% Development Control procedure
- 17% Enforcement
- 7% Appeals
- 3% Policy
- and 13% non-planning matters

Where eligible, casework taken up by volunteers

Service aim is to be part provided by volunteers

Updating of web resources and development of new ones in support of emerging regulations





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Outreach programme

Working with LPAs and target communities to offer:

- training on the planning system – capacity building
- community support for developing Local/Neighbourhood Plans

Working with Front Runners in understanding the issues around developing Neighbourhood Forums

Encouraging the development of plan making within our target communities

Over 600 volunteers wishing to be involved with the new planning process





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Feedback to date:

- Little evidence at this stage that Neighbourhood Forums emerging from our target communities.
- Local support to Forums from LPAs inconsistent at best
- More support and guidance from DCLG
- Need for communities to network with each other
- Capacity to manage expectations





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Thank you for listening.

Any questions?

