
Formed *by* Parish Councils - Run *for* Parish Councils - Delivering *to* Parish Councils

A Partnership Approach to Supporting Neighbourhood Planning

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LRALC – Vision and Mission

Vision: An active, inclusive, and empowered local council tier across Leicestershire and Rutland, working with their communities and partners to improve quality of life in their localities.

Mission: To champion and provide support and guidance to member local councils, their staff, and their councillors, for the benefit of those who live and work in their parishes.

The Background.....

- LRALC secured funding for a total of 5 different Neighbourhood Plan (NP) training events 2012-15 from NALC/CPRE, and Locality.
- We identified a need for more comprehensive training and support through member surveys and feedback from previous training offers.
- Harborough District Council (HDC) keen to encourage as many of their parishes as possible to develop a NP, but limited capacity in-house.
- LRALC applied to HDC's Community Grant Fund for £4,800 to deliver a NP project in their District.

The Need.....

- LRALC sought expressions of interest from Harbourough parish councils; we more than filled the course with these expressions of interest.
 - LRALC's casework shows a clear and ongoing issue with local councils not taking advice on, or considering, issues around compliance with their own internal processes and local council law.
 - Many NP consultants do not seem to be familiar with the legal structures and processes that parish councils must comply with.
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The Project

- A series of 3 workshops (delivered in partnership with the Rural Community Council, and Landmark Planning) for parishes that have made a formal commitment to undertake a NP.
 - The workshops were planned for a maximum of 5 parishes (4 or 5 delegates per parish attending to provide a sufficient “core” of people who can drive the NP forward).
 - Intended to cover the community engagement, local council procedure, and technical planning aspects of developing a NP
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Session Outline For Each Workshop

- 1. Setting a Vision** – Support with identifying and prioritising key issues as well as to develop and test an overall vision and set of core objectives for your NP.
 - 2. Developing Policy Options** – Support with utilising your evidence base to develop, test, and prioritise a series of policy options and to determine the required format and content of your draft NP.
 - 3. NP Fitness Test** – An opportunity to scrutinise and test your draft NP by undertaking a dress rehearsal of both the Pre-Submission Consultation and Independent Examination.
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The Events

- Delivered over a period of 8 weeks.
 - Groups consisted of cllrs, clerks, and volunteers.
 - HDC officers attended each session.
 - Fully catered using a community venue
 - Each event ran 11-4 using presentations, interactive sessions, and group work.
 - The councils who attended were set activities (e.g. working up and prioritising options) to complete between sessions.
 - Fully administered by LRALC.
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Post event

- Events reviewed well by participants.
 - Feedback from each session was acted upon for subsequent session (“you said, we did”).
 - Each attending council is making good progress on their plan.
 - All content and materials developed using grant funding – now provides an “off the shelf” resource.
 - Potential for the project to be delivered in any of the 7 LRALC District/Borough/County areas.
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