

## **Neighbourhood Planning: Responding to Core Strategies and other Local Development Framework Documents**

Parish Councils and local communities may in future consider preparing Neighbourhood Plans under proposals yet to be set out in detail by the Coalition Government under the 'Localism' agenda. Whilst it appears that such documents will provide some opportunities for local communities to set out their objectives for future development, economic growth, housing etc., judging by the detail of the Localism Bill, in reality these Plans will still need to adhere to the Local Development Framework adopted by the local planning authority.

Therefore, if Parishes have aspirations that they might wish to include in future Neighbourhood Plans, they will need to ensure these are consistent with the overarching policies in documents particularly the Core Strategy for the area. For areas that currently have Parish Plans, it may be a case of reviewing these and taking forward issues or proposals that are still relevant and ensuring, as far as possible, that the strategic policies of the local planning authority are taking these into account.

Given the above, it is vitally important that local communities raise any relevant issues at the earliest possible stage when local authorities are preparing planning policy documents for their Local Development Frameworks. It will be too late once matters reach more advanced stages in the process to influence outcomes. For instance, if there are concerns within communities about the location or scale of future development, it is likely to be too late to object on such matters once planning application stage has been reached as development decisions will be made within the context of the prevailing planning policies.

Progress made by local authorities to date in preparing their Local Development Frameworks covering parts of the Mendip Hills AONB is varied. An update on the Core Strategies and any other key documents recently reviewed by the AONB Unit can be seen on this part of the website. For further information please refer to the local authorities' own websites.

Bath & North East Somerset:

<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/environmentandplanning/planning/planningpolicy/localdevelopment/scheme/Pages/corestrategy.aspx>

Mendip: <http://www.mendip.gov.uk/CouncilService.asp?id= SX9452-A7816E06>

North Somerset: [http://www.n-](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/Environment/Planning+policy/Local+Development+Framework/Core+Strategy.htm)

[somerset.gov.uk/Environment/Planning+policy/Local+Development+Framework/Core+Strategy.htm](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/Environment/Planning+policy/Local+Development+Framework/Core+Strategy.htm)

Sedgemoor: <http://www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=5837>

Somerset County Council:

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/irj/public/services/directory/service?rid=/guid/60eb20bf-5336-2c10-a591-e643ec9ceb24>

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