



P M CARNEY, SOLICITOR
Chief Executive
Planning & Regeneration

Town Hall Ripley
Derbyshire DE5 3BT
Tel: 01773 570222 Fax: 01773 841523
Minicom: 01773 841490
E-Mail: enquiry@ambervalley.gov.uk
Web: www.ambervalley.gov.uk

Linda McCormick
Clerk to Ripley Town Council
Town Hall
Market Place
Ripley
Derbyshire
DE5 3BT

Our Ref : DS
Your Ref :
Date : 25 January 2012
Ask For : Derek Stafford
Ext : 1581
Direct Dial : 01773 841581
Email : derek.stafford@ambervalley.gov.uk

Dear Linda

A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FOR RIPLEY

Further to our meeting on 13 January 2012, I am now in a position to formally respond to your letter of 20 December 2011, regarding the above.

I referred at our meeting to the report that had been prepared for the meeting of the Full Council on 18 January 2012, recommending confirmation of the Borough Council's response to the Government's consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Planning (England) Regulations 2012, as well as to confirm the level of support that the Borough Council will be able to provide for parish/town councils and local communities in relation to neighbourhood planning.

The report also recommended that parish/town councils be advised:-

- a) that the legal right to undertake neighbourhood planning will not be available until the relevant parts of the Localism Act are enacted and until the relevant Regulations come into force
- b) that the content of neighbourhood plans will need to be consistent with local and national planning policies and
- c) of the need to make appropriate budget provision for costs arising from neighbourhood planning, including the cost of Local Returning Officers administering any referendums that may not be met from national funding.

The above recommendations were agreed by the Borough Council on 18 January 2012.

In accordance with the Council's resolutions, officers will be able to provide:-

- access to existing data and supporting evidence obtained through the preparation of the Core Strategy
- direction to other relevant information sources and contacts
- access to officers within the Community Planning team for general advice
- attendance at meetings held by parish/town councils and local communities on an exceptional basis, where sufficient information and advice cannot be given by e-mail, telephone or letter.

You confirmed at our meeting that the Town Council has now arranged the first 'Neighbourhood Forum' (as an open public meeting) on Monday 7 February 2012 in the Town Hall, Ripley. I can confirm that two of my officers within the Community Planning team will be able to attend the meeting in an advisory capacity. I can also confirm that, as discussed, the Borough Council will be able to supply for display the purposes at this meeting, copies of the relevant Local Plan Proposals Map Insets for the whole of the parish, plus copies of the relevant Local Plan policies for the area, as well as the previously published consultation material in respect of the emerging Core Strategy.

You acknowledged at our meeting that the legal right to undertake neighbourhood planning will not be available to parish/town councils and local communities until the relevant parts of the Localism Act are enacted and until the relevant Regulations come into force, which is currently intended to be on 1 April 2012.

Given this requirement, the Borough Council is not in a position at this time to formally enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Town Council and a Ripley Neighbourhood Forum (when established), in relation to the preparation of a Ripley Neighbourhood Plan.

However, in terms of the principles set out in your draft Memorandum, I can comment as follows:-

- The Town Council would clearly be the 'qualifying body' for the purposes of leading the process of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan, as the relevant parish/town council for the area concerned
- The Neighbourhood Plan would need to be broadly in conformity with both national and local planning policies – it is anticipated that the Government's new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) will be brought into effect at the same time as the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (on or after 1 April 2012), whilst the latest indicative timetable for the Borough Council's emerging Core Strategy for Amber Valley envisages a draft Core Strategy by mid 2012, with formal adoption (following public examination) around mid 2013

- I would envisage any Neighbourhood Plans within Amber Valley to be complementary to, but separate from, the Core Strategy and other local development documents prepared by the Borough Council, as part of the Local Development Framework
- The support that the Borough Council would be able to provide to the Town Council and a Neighbourhood Forum would be consistent with that agreed by the Council on 18 January 2012
- With regard to a local referendum, you have indicated that the current anticipated date would be May 2013 and that you would expect this to be combined with the local elections scheduled for that date (Derbyshire County Council elections) – this would be consistent with the Government's draft Regulations
- You also indicated at our meeting that the Town Council would be making budgetary provision for 2012-13, in recognition of the costs arising from preparing a Neighbourhood Plan, whilst noting the potential opportunity to bid for national funding to support the process in due course.
- The Borough Council has recognised the requirement in the draft Regulations for local planning authorities to meet the costs of an independent examination and a local referendum.

I would be grateful if you could confirm the start time for the meeting on 7 February. I will then confirm who will be attending on behalf of the Borough Council and the arrangements for supplying and displaying the range of material referred to above.

Yours sincerely

Derek Stafford
Assistant Director (Planning & Regeneration)