

How the Neighbourhood Plan Works

Create a Neighbourhood Forum and decide on a suitable geographical area for the Neighbourhood Plan

Obtain 'designation' (i.e. approval) of Forum and Plan area by Ashfield District Council

Carry out initial public consultation exercise

The Plan can't cover every individual's every wish so must focus on what matters to most people. By talking to people of all ages across all the area a snapshot is taken of the things people like and dislike about where they live and what they'd like to see changed. This information gives the Plan a focus from which the Forum can develop policies.

Prepare Draft of Plan

Working Groups of people from the area are organised to work with experts and consultants on the draft Plan. Our Working Groups focus on heritage, landscape, business, housing, roads/traffic and Stanton Hill Regeneration. Working Groups obtain information needed by the consultants from various sources e.g.. Ashfield District Council, provide local knowledge and provide input that helps shape the policies that go into the Plan.

Draft Plan is published for Consultation

The draft Plan is made available to the public and a further set of consultation events is held throughout the area. At the same time the Plan is sent to the statutory bodies we are required to consult with for comment. The comments and feedback from this consultation is used to amend and refine the Plan so that it achieves widespread support and meets all the statutory criteria.

Formal Submission

Once finalised, the Plan is submitted to Ashfield District Council. From then on the Plan is out of our hands. Ashfield District Council will check that the Plan has been properly prepared in accordance with the legal requirements. The Council will then publicise the Plan and will take it through the following steps.

Independent Scrutiny

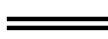
After consultation and refinement a final version of the Plan is published and the Plan goes to scrutiny by an independent expert who can require changes or further refinement

Referendum

Once the Plan has passed independent scrutiny Ashfield District Council organise a referendum of all those on the electoral register for the area. More than 50% of those who vote must vote "Yes" to the Plan

The Plan is made

If a majority of people vote in favour of the Plan, from then on decisions on whether or not to grant planning permission in the Neighbourhood Area will have to be made in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan.



= Completed



= Yet to be completed