

Planning Support Note 1: Secondary Source Information

www.planninghelp.org.uk Sections include:

- National Planning
- Sub-national Planning
- Local Planning
- Neighbourhood Planning
- Planning Applications
- Major Infrastructure Proposals

[CPRE Planning Network](#) on Facebook is a real-time internal discussion forum. Strictly for planning volunteers and paid CPRE staff, it's a place to share ideas, give advice, discuss solutions to problems and bring together CPRE volunteers and staff involved in planning. To apply, email campaigns@cpre.org.uk, telling them your Facebook identity, and which region, branch and/or district group you are engaged with. If you're not a Facebook user, talk to [Anna Mathieson](#) at CPRE's national office about how to set up a Facebook profile and then apply to join the group.

[CPRE](#) and the [National Association of Local Councils](#) have produced three booklets:

- [Planning explained](#)
- [How to respond to planning applications](#)
- [A guide to neighbourhood planning](#)

The [Royal Town Planning Institute](#) offers advice on town and country planning matters through its [Planning Aid service](#), a free web resource that offers answers to often-asked planning questions, along with clear simple explanations of how the planning system works, and where to go next. There are Guides and Briefing Papers via the website.

In addition they offer an advice service with up to 15 minutes' free general planning advice over the phone or via email.

In some circumstances further bespoke casework support is offered to people on low incomes and to groups or individuals who have traditionally not been involved in the planning system. (They do *not* provide free advice to other professionals or to organisations who can afford to employ professionals.)

They may provide support to local (as opposed to national) charities, social enterprises and voluntary organisations or groups who represent tenants or residents. Pressure groups seeking CPRE Branch support and advice on complicated planning matters could be referred to Planning Aid for expert help. They decide whether to offer assistance on a case-by-case basis using set criteria which can be viewed on the website.

Planning Aid has around 55 volunteers in the East Midlands Region, mostly concentrated around the main urban areas of Leicester, Derby and Nottingham. The RTPI also has a directory of planning consultants at www.rtpiconsultants.co.uk.

The [Planning Inspectorate](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk) (PINS) processes planning and enforcement appeals and holds inquiries into local development plans. It also deals with listed building consent appeals, advertisement appeals and reporting on planning applications. The website also includes a database of appeals and a local plan monitor.

www.planningportal.gov.uk The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) gives information about the planning process. You can also access the above noted PINS database from here, and use the Search facility to view information about each local authority in the country.

www.dcp-online.co.uk A subscription-based planning resource giving updates on legislation and policy statements, as well as appeal decisions with expert analysis.

www.compasssearch.co.uk Access to an appeal database, and for a fee they will locate all appeals according to the brief they are given.

www.planningresource.co.uk Provided by the Haymarket group which publishes *Planning* magazine, it covers a wide range of planning related issues as well as news analysis, email bulletins, noteworthy appeal cases and a development plan tracker.

www.communities.gov.uk The DCLG is responsible for planning in England. Its main website allows access to the [National Planning Policy Framework](http://www.communities.gov.uk/nppf) (NPPF) which sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied. Further context-related information to the NPPF is given in [the National Planning Practice Guidance](http://www.communities.gov.uk/nppg) (NPPG) and you can sign up for alerts whenever the guidance

is updated. Its [Plain English Guide to the Planning System](#) (January 2015) explains how the planning system in England works.

[Action with Communities in Rural England](#) (ACRE) is the national voice for the 38 rural community councils across England. Advice on neighbourhood planning and community planning can be found under the 'Our Work' and 'Rural Issues' sections of the website.

www.locality.org.uk This site provides a note on grants to help communities prepare a neighbourhood plan.

If you feel that your local planning authority has made a mistake in its decision making process then there is recourse to the [Local Government Ombudsman](#).

Local Planning Authority Your own local planning authority website has lots of useful information including:

- its adopted Local Plan and any ongoing review
- any Supplementary Planning Documents, Development Briefs, or Planning Guidance that the authority have adopted
- the planning application register to view past and current planning applications
- who your local Councillor is and their contact details
- the names of those Councillors who sit on the authority's Planning Committee and their contact details
- contact details for the authority's Development Management team
- the team dealing with Policy matters and the Local Plan.

The Council officers should be able to provide free advice and help to the public in accessing required information and the procedures to follow when making representations to either a planning application or a local plan.

Planning Consultancies and Legal Firms The larger firms tend to produce their own briefing notes on planning subject matter, along with blogs, and in some cases provide an initial free consultation.

Other useful websites include:

Environment Agency www.environment-agency.org.uk

Natural England www.natural-england.org.uk

English Heritage www.english-heritage.org.uk

The Wildlife Trusts www.wildlifetrusts.org

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