**Mossley Neighbourhood Plan; References and information**

This note is not intended to be an exhaustive guide to the Localism Act or the process, but to give an overview and sense of what can be involved, referring to different sources.

A quick search on the Internet reveals a lot of examples of these “completed” and in process across the country.

Where a Town or Parish Council exists, it is expected and usual that this is the lead body, reporting up to the Local Planning Authority.

The formation and development of the Neighbourhood Plan is a legally based process within the Localism Act;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/localism-act-2011-overview>

Then reinforced;

<https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/neighbourhood-planning-act-2017-get-act>

Tameside MBC has accepted that the Neighbourhood Plan method can be applied here in Mossley. Tameside is for our purposes the Local Planning Authority (LPA), empowered to make planning policy and decisions. Those are in turn overseen by central government, both as to preparation of documents and through the appeals process for applications.

This is a useful link;

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/1140/02_neighbourhood_plans_-_dec_2017.pdf>

We also had informal discussions with Saddleworth and Holme Valley Councillors about their experiences. We thank them for their time and advice.

https://saddleworthparishcouncil.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan/

<https://www.holmevalleyparishcouncil.gov.uk/Neighbourhood_Planning_22997.aspx#null>

An example of a Plan from a more rural Parish is to be found here, but it does well illustrate the content of a Plan.

<https://www.alwoodleyparishcouncil.org/alwoodley-neighbourhood-plan/>

Remember, a Neighbourhood Plan is not designed to “stop” development. It is there to allow the community to set out its concerns and desires for how the town should look, feel, and serve the community by influencing planning policy, both in development control (planning application assessment) and the formation of a range of local plans, often on specific subjects like conservation, ecology and highways.

The Town Council also wishes to use the information gathered to support other areas of community life, health and wellbeing, prosperity and leisure.

In making our plans, we do have to accept there will be compromises and that we do not exist in isolation from our neighbouring areas and the social and economic factors being exorcised locally and wider, even nationally.

Many policies and “rules” come from central government policy, which will exert restrictions, possibly provide opportunities, but may well set out policies which will be have to be central to planning decisions and policy making at Tameside Council. These are national planning policy guidelines and it is expected that decisions by all LPAs are made in the context of those.

Lastly, Mossley Town Council (like many other Town and Parish councils) does not have massive resources to make this plan and will be looking for grant support from funds available at central government. The same applies to the actions in the making of the plan, which requires leadership and proactive support from within the community.

There is an external advisor in place and will be taking steps, at the appropriate time, to appoint professional support staff to help further guide and bring the plan to fruition.

We are certain that this will provide an unprecedented opportunity for people to have their say and genuinely influence the future of our town.

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