



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN CONSULTANCY

About RLA Planning & Jennifer Lampert Associates

RLA Planning (RLA) and Jennifer Lampert Associates (JLA) are independent, highly experienced and versatile planning consultancies. RLA's and JLA's Principals are both Chartered Town Planners and Members of the Royal Town Planning Institute.

RLA and JLA work jointly in the Neighbourhood Plan Field assisting Parish Councils with timely and high quality independent advice and assistance. Both consultancies have considerable experience in the public and private sectors and advise a wide range of clients in those sectors, including advising Parish Councils on Neighbourhood Plans.



Why RLA & JLA?

Both Consultancies have developed an understanding of the needs of Neighbourhood Plan clients based on previous and current experience of working with Parish Council clients in this field.

We understand that it is important for Parish Councils to have access to their own independent advice whilst preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. We understand that Parish Councils should lead in this process so as to deliver a Plan which reflects the aspirations and needs of the Local Community. Our role is to facilitate this rather than to lead and we take this role very seriously, given that Localism is about Local Communities deciding their own futures – **It Is Your Plan.**

How We Assist In the Neighbourhood Plan Process

Whilst the process is at very much a local level, Neighbourhood Plans must still be set within a proper planning context if they are ultimately to be adopted as a planning policy document. This means that they must take into account existing local and national policy and be based on a proper and sound evidence base.

We advise on these matters to ensure that your Plan will be sound and proceed to adoption. We help you draft your Plan. We liaise closely with our client Parish Councils and also assist them in the necessary joint working with District Councils. Few District Councils have the resources to assist Parish Councils, our assistance ensures that your Plan proceeds in a satisfactory manner. Part of our work is also to keep you up to date with the developing policy framework at national and local level and advise on how this affects your Plan. We also help you to ensure that your preparation process and evidence gathering are adequate and satisfactory.

Additionally, we are able to assist with advice on sources of funding or assistance. We have successfully highlighted these to clients and helped them to obtain government and other funding. We have also helped one client obtain assistance from The Prince's Foundation to facilitate their Plan.



We would be delighted to be contacted by you for an initial discussion as to whether we might assist you.

Contact Us:

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Confused or Need Assistance?

The Neighbourhood Plan process has been evolving and continues to do so. It is therefore important that you are aware of changes to the process as time progresses. RLA and JLA, as planning consultancies monitor the developments in the process and advise you to ensure that your Plan will be satisfactory and as importantly it will be sound, justified and legally compliant, this means that your Plan can then be adopted and influence planning decisions in the way that your Community wishes.

Policy Guidance and Regulations now exist and the Localism Act has now received Royal Assent and is now law. Further guidance and policy can be expected. Neighbourhood Planning can be a confusing process to those not used to planning matters or with little experience in them. RLA and JLA provide Parish Councils with the necessary expertise and advise them in an understandable manner. Our day to day professional work means that we are familiar with developments in the planning field such as the National Planning Policy Framework and the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations and of course other planning policy matters and issues as they emerge.



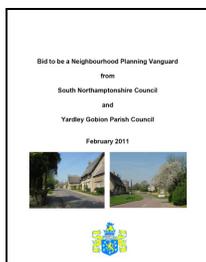
We also work with EASI4communities, EASI is a social enterprise offering independent support to communities to assist engagement in the planning process. EASI recognises the opportunities for community development that developing a Neighbourhood Plan presents and the benefits for residents of being involved in the process. Please see the last page of this brochure for further information about how RLA, JFL and EASI may be able to support your community.

Case Study

RLA and JLA have during 2011 and 2012 worked with Yardley Gobion Parish Council in South Northamptonshire on their Neighbourhood Plan. We have identified sources of funding and other assistance, leading to a successful bid for £20,000 of Vanguard (Frontrunner) funding from DCLG through a joint bid with South Northamptonshire Council. We have also assisted in achieving assistance to a similar value from The Prince's Foundation. We advise on other sources of assistance or funding as and when we become aware of these.

Yardley Gobion Neighbourhood Plan is progressing well and at present is accumulating the necessary evidence base from 2 rounds of public consultation. Results from this work and work with The Prince's Foundation identified the wishes and needs of the community and work is progressing to include these wishes in their Plan.

John Parker, Yardley Gobion Parish Plan Steering Group Chair: "RLA and JLA have provided an excellent level of support in language we can understand and have been very sympathetic to our needs. Their assistance has been invaluable in progressing our Plan satisfactorily and their advice has been independent and in our best interests as a Community. Their work and advice has been of high quality and produced in a very timely manner. Their help has also been invaluable in liaising with the District Council and in helping us obtain funding and other assistance".





EASI4communities works closely with RLA and JLA and adds to the strength of our ability and capacity to help your community through the Neighbourhood Plan process.

EASI4communities is a social enterprise offering independent support to your community to assist engagement in the planning process. EASI (Engage Articulate Support Influence) empowers communities to do as much as they can for themselves through effective community engagement and relevant support, helping communities and local authorities to maximise the opportunity for community development presented through the Neighbourhood Planning process.

Support includes:

Live workshops with community groups and local authorities to consult and engage on Neighbourhood Planning priorities

Support in the form of Chartered Town Planners during the process, to ensure that your Plan will be satisfactory and ultimately acceptable

Facilitating development of Neighbourhood Forums in non-Parished areas

Development of a “fact pack” for your neighbourhood to include a wide range of demographic, planning and community information

Independent brokerage and facilitation of discussions between local authorities and Neighbourhood Forums seeking to progress Neighbourhood Plans

Support for Community Referendums

Support with your Plan’s sustainability appraisal

Neighbourhood Planning questionnaires adaptable to community priorities

Further information is available on the EASI website by clicking on the link below:

<http://www.easi4communities.org.uk/>



It Is Your Plan