

Dear Chairman,

RESEARCH ON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS IN USE

I am writing to you as Chairman of your local CPRE Branch to seek your help with some important research which CPRE is supporting on Neighbourhood Plans.

We are seeking your help as a Parish with a Neighbourhood Plan which has been completed and “made” and is now a formal part of the development plan system.

Neighbourhood Plans have been with us for almost six years. However, there is a worrying vacuum in terms of understanding how effective they are being either in encouraging better quality planning applications or preventing inappropriate ones securing permission. As more Neighbourhood Plans get made almost weekly, there is an urgent need to establish whether or not they are proving to be effective and, where appropriate, to feed this information back to ensure that the next tranche are better.

CPRE is funding research on this issue through Place Studio, a small team in the South West with long experience and expertise in supporting the production of Neighbourhood Plans. The work is being led by Jeff Bishop.

In the research, views are being sought through five short questionnaires directed to a variety of officers in your local authority directly involved in advising parish and other groups in producing Neighbourhood Plans. There is also a questionnaire specifically for Parish Councils such as yours and is about your experience with the process and views on the effectiveness of your plan to date in relation to planning applications received since your plan was made.

Your questionnaire is online and can be accessed at: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/QHVRH9R> . It should be straightforward and quick to complete: there are just a few questions. Once completed, the questionnaire will be returned direct to Place Studio.

Finally, we would also encourage you to contact your local authority to ensure that they input to their part of the work as well.

This is to be an extensive piece of research covering plans in Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Dorset, Somerset and the former county of Avon. A workshop is being planned to discuss emerging findings from the work and you will receive a final copy of the research report and conclusions in due course.

Thank you for your help.

Yours sincerely

Anne Henshaw

Anne Henshaw
Chair, CPRE Wiltshire Branch