



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNERS.LONDON SURVEY 2017

Summary of results

October 2017

1. A survey of neighbourhood planners in London was undertaken in June/July 2017. This follows the Local London survey undertaken in 2015 which informed the creation of Neighbourhood Planners.London in 2016.
2. The survey received **70 responses**.
3. Over **80% of responses were from volunteers** or businesses involved in neighbourhood planning.
4. **Respondents were at all stages of neighbourhood planning** – 30% were writing policies and 20% developing a vision and objectives
5. A **large majority support more networking opportunities** - 74% scored 7 or more in agreeing to the statement that *“More networking opportunities for London Neighbourhood Forums will make better Neighbourhood Plans quicker”* (on a scale of 1-10). Comments include:

The NPL network is a valuable source of information, and an opportunity to learn from the experience of practitioners

Value of bringing groups together should be recognised by Government's neighbourhood planning support programme

Sharing experience particularly over pitfalls and how to avoid them would significantly speed up progress

There is a dearth of sound advice and good policy examples

Experience to date doesn't support this view - surprisingly!

6. The **top 5 topical issues requested for workshops** are:
 1. Delivery of affordable/social housing
 2. Community infrastructure levy
 3. Local Green Space
 4. High Street
 5. Community engagement



7. The **top 5 priorities for Neighbourhood Planners.London to influence central and local government** are:

1. What does neighbourhood planning need from the London Plan?
2. Future of Government support programme – what do we need?
3. Influence over the community infrastructure levy
4. Making designation of neighbourhood forums and areas quicker/easier
5. Design panels and design review

8. **Other suggestions for Neighbourhood Planners.London support** include:

Collate policies by function | Convince the London Mayor and Deputy Mayors of the value of neighbourhood planning | Provide administrative support | Advice on how to resolve problems with local council planners | Encourage LPAs to second a planner to each Forum | Signposts and commentary for good NP examples | Help us draft some plans | Experience of professional policy writers | Continue doing what you're doing! Connecting, providing the conference, and central repository of info | Clarification and specification of the support to be provided by the boroughs and guidance from the GLA on how NPs should be integrated with borough plans and the London Plan | Naming and shaming recalcitrant borough councils

9. Respondents were **evenly split on three options for future funding of Neighbourhood Planners.London** – (1) up to £15 charge per event, (2) £50 annual fee and (3) free attendance and combination of the two

10. We are considering the results for the future priorities of Neighbourhood Planners.London and would welcome any feedback or comments on the survey.