



Neighbourhood Planning Information Sheet 3:

Integrating heritage into wider agendas

1. Careful consideration of the opportunities that heritage can provide, including how best to integrate new development into an existing place, can encourage people to be innovative, stimulating investment, entrepreneurship, tourism and employment.

Identifying preferred economic and/or social outcomes

2. Through consultation and discussions a neighbourhood planning group may identify preferred economic and/or social outcomes for a site and its surrounding area, and use neighbourhood planning policy and supporting guidance to steer future development.

3. To give one example, it may be that a neighbourhood includes an historic building or street that is a popular destination for tourists. A local plan may not be able to plan in sufficient detail for measures that would make the most of this asset; however, through collaboration with relevant parties, a neighbourhood plan may be able to identify measures in car parking and/or signage that help to promote ease of access and enjoyment.

4. A neighbourhood plan can provide the detail on access measures, such as a parish heritage trail, that could over time support the regeneration of an area and the health and well-being of the local community. Planning policies and decisions can achieve places which promote high quality public spaces and enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments. 93% of residents say that local heritage has an impact on their quality of life, according to the National Heritage Lottery Fund (NHLF) publication “[20 years in 12 places](#)”.

Heritage at risk

5. A neighbourhood plan could help to provide the stimulus for tackling a heritage site at risk, supporting proposals for part or full restoration of assets identified by the community during plan preparation. Work on heritage at risk not only helps to conserve the asset(s), it can also deliver wider public benefits, promote civic pride and support the regeneration of an area.

6. The [Salehurst and Robertsbridge Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2028](#) includes a site allocation policy that supports restoration of a historic mill. It specifies mixed-use development, including residential development and at least 1200 m² of employment space, including the conversion of the mill building and the conversion and refurbishment of the listed buildings on the site subject to the prior provision and retention of an alternative access.

Climate change adaptation and mitigation

7. Policy on heritage assets, which could include those identified as being at risk, might promote the sensitive inclusion of energy efficiency measures, while maintaining the significance of the asset. Repairing and reusing buildings provides significant opportunities to conserve carbon and reduce emissions. For more information refer to [Heritage Counts](#) and advice published by Historic England on [energy efficiency and historic buildings](#). General policies associated with climate change adaptation and mitigation are likely to be included in local plans; however, there may be scope for additional detail, especially relating to specific heritage assets, in a neighbourhood plan. Furthermore, they can seek to reduce carbon emissions by encouraging the retention of existing buildings or through appropriately sited sources of renewable energy.

Funding

8. If funding is needed to support identified infrastructure outcomes, one route to consider is through the use of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). CIL can be used by local authorities to fund a wide range of infrastructure, including transport, flood defences, schools, hospitals, and other health and social care facilities.

9. In England, communities that draw up a neighbourhood plan or neighbourhood development order (including a community right to build order), and secure the consent of local people in a referendum, will benefit from 25% of the levy revenues arising from the development that takes place in their area.

Stratford-Upon-Avon:
looking from Windsor
Street towards the road
junction with Henley
Street © Lewis Clarke
(cc-by-sa/2.0)



10. Appendix 1 of the [Stratford-upon-Avon Neighbourhood Development Plan 2011-2031](#) includes a table of infrastructure types and examples of projects that may be wholly, or partly, funded by CIL, including, for example a scheme to improve shop frontages in the historic town centre, alongside new and improved public information signposts.

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