

## Planning Aid in Action: Planning Your Community, Luton

### Background

Luton is a target area of Planning Aid England work. The Luton Assembly coordinated by Voluntary Action Luton help support and empower the community & voluntary sector, giving them a voice and helping them to shape and design service delivery within the town.

Following discussions with VA Luton and Luton Borough Council it was decided to run a training session for the area to inform local community leaders about planning and localism. The session was run in partnership with VA Luton, Luton Borough Council and Luton Assembly:-

- VA Luton provided admin support for the event, publicised and took bookings.
- Luton Borough Council delivered a presentation on the Local Plan and provided support for the workshop.
- Luton Assembly introduced the session and provided participants.

### Planning Aid's support included:-

- The coordinator held initial meetings with VA Luton and then the Local Authority to plan the session.
- Planning Aid prepared and delivered a half day workshop session on Planning and Localism.
- One volunteer took a lead role and with support from the co-ordinator created a programme and prepared presentations for delivery.
- The lead volunteer delivered two presentations and facilitating a workshop along with another volunteer.

**“I knew nothing about the whole planning process and learnt lots and found it all really interesting.”**

*Participant*



### What was the outcome of the project?

Over 30 people attended the session. More residents of Luton are informed about the planning process and how they can engage in it and are informed about up coming consultations.

A follow up session could be arranged to cover new legislation in more detail.