

# Community Planning Review for 2008-2009

## Sheet 2 - July to September



Engaging Communities in Planning



The Planning Aid Service provides an exciting programme of community planning, training and education activities. This programme is aimed at helping groups and individuals, particularly in disadvantaged areas, to understand the planning system and what happens in their local area.

In the North of England, Planning Aid North has been very active in delivering its programme of Community Planning. 999 members of the community have benefited from our community planning activities during the last three months.

Some of our activities have contributed to either on-going or new community planning projects. Close working relationships have also been maintained with key stakeholders.

This information sheet reviews our performance during July to September 2008.

## Community Planning in the North of England during July to September 2008

### Introduction

The summary below gives details of some of the Community Planning activities delivered by Planning Aid North:

### Community Planning Events

During the last 3 months, we have carried out 20 Community Planning Events for 566 people.

These events have included presentations to faith groups in Durham, Sunderland and Wear Valley. We have also worked with education networks and services in Gateshead, Newcastle and Wansbeck to develop activities for young people. Our Community Planner has supported residents affected by regeneration in Newcastle during consultation events.

We have also raised awareness with planning studies at University of Newcastle in advance of them participating in community-based research projects.

Annual targets are 55 events for 1500 people (87% of target achieved in 6 months).

### Community Training Events

We delivered 12 Community Training Events for 487 people. These events now include adult and young people training.

During the reporting period, we delivered training events for community groups in the West End of Newcastle and Stannington, Northumberland to help them contribute to a major planning application and the evolution of a parish plan respectively. Planning and Urban Design Events were held at Shiremoor Primary School as part of their whole school approach to planning. We also delivered 2 Planning and Enterprise Events at Marden High School.

Annual targets are 17 events for 500 people (129% of target achieved in 6 months).

### Stakeholder Events

We have held 5 partnership meetings with a range of regional stakeholders. These have included local authorities and participating in a Government Office for the North East event.

Annual target is to hold 15 meetings (140% of target achieved in 6 months).

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## Community Planning in Action

### Community Planning Projects

Some of our activities have contributed to 8 community planning projects. Our progress on these projects can be summarised as follows:

**North Tyneside Education Business Partnership** - Our Co-ordinator has continued to support the Partnership management group.

**Shiremoor Primary School** - We have continued to work with the School to support their whole school approach to planning. 4 events for pupils have been held on Planning and Good Urban Design.

**St. Thomas More RC High School** - An exploratory meeting was held to consider further partnering work.

**Whitley Bay High School** - A meeting was held with management at the School to prepare for a Planning for Sustainable Schools project.

**Wansbeck Enterprise Education Network** - An awareness meeting was held with the Network Manager to consider ways of supporting young people in SE Northumberland.

**Stannington Residents** - We held a training event for residents in Stannington, Northumberland to help to evolve proposals for a parish plan for their local neighbourhood.

**Gateshead Education Business Link Service** - An awareness meeting was held with the Link Service to consider support opportunities. Our Community Planner will support their Park Life project.

**Gypsies and Travellers in North of England** - We worked with planning students from the University of Newcastle, who will be undertaking research to help us with a support project.

### Planning Aid North Information Leaflets

We have a range of information leaflets on our advice, communications, community planning, education initiatives, progress and resources, good practice, learning resources, planning knowledge, seminars, topical task sheets and volunteers.

## Education and Regional Innovations enhance Community Planning

### Education Projects

Planning Aid North continues to be active in the field of education for young people.

During the last 3 months, 460 schoolchildren have directly benefited from 8 training events in the region.

Details of our activities can be found on our information sheet - 06EP14 - 2008-2009 Education Progress Sheet 2.

### Regional Innovations

Planning Aid North's delivery programme for the "Planning and Young People in County Durham" project is well underway.

3 meetings have been held with teachers to further develop the programme of activities for schools. 26 classroom events have been held for 725 students.

Further details of our project progress can be found on our information sheet, 06GP58 - Planning and Young People Review 10.

The "Newcastle Community Empowerment" project is now underway. Planning Aid North will be helping communities across the City to understand the changes taking place with the planning system and how it impacts on the local region. They will be introduced to topics such as the Land Allocations Development Planning Document, Area Character Assessments, Section 106 Agreements, Transportation and the need for Growth Points for additional housing provision. Communities will also be given the opportunity to take part in optional training sessions to broaden their knowledge.

Secondary schools will also be given the opportunity to take part in "Planning Your City" Challenge Days.

We also have 2 smaller research projects being undertaken by students at the University of Newcastle.

Details of our project progress can be found on our information sheet, 06GP57 - Newcastle Community Empowerment Review 1.

### New Information Sheets

Planning Aid North continues to produce case studies on its activities:

06ED117 - Careers and Community Action at Shiremoor Primary School

06ED118 - Regeneration at Marden High School

06ED120 - North Shields Area Action Plan and Norham College

06ED122 - Crook Conservation Area and St. Cuthbert's RC Primary School

06ED123 - Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development at St. Leonard's

06ED124 - Good Neighbourhood Design at Seaview Primary School

06ED125 - Sustainable Challenge Day at Crook Primary School