

RSS Revision Phase 3 Consultation Gypsy and Traveller Groups

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The Role Of Planning Aid

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Provides free, independent and professional town planning advice and support to communities and individuals who cannot afford to pay planning consultant fees

Complements the work of local planning authorities, but is wholly independent of them

Planning Aid started by Town and Country Planning Association in 1973

Part of Royal Town Planning Institute

Funded by Department of Communities and Local Government

Aims to place community engagement at the heart of the planning system

- Free and independent casework advice from a qualified planner
- Community Planning activities (training, information and facilitation for groups about how planning may be affecting their community)
 - In each region under a Regional Manager we have
- A Caseworker - a fully qualified planner to give independent advice and who will sometimes hand cases over to a volunteer
- A Community Planner who works alongside communities in helping to plan their neighbourhood
- Network of dedicated and experienced Volunteers - either Corporate (fully qualified) or Licentiate Planners

- Understand and use the planning system
- Participate in Development Plan preparation
- Prepare their own plans for the future of their community
- Make or Comment on planning applications
- Facilitate understanding between LPA and the individual
- Apply for planning permission or Appeal against refusal of permission
- Deal with Enforcement Action
- Represent themselves at Hearings, Inquiries, and EIPs
- Find other advice services



Engaging **Communities** in Planning

**COVERS
HEREFORDSHIRE,
WORCESTERSHIRE,
SHROPSHIRE,
STAFFORDSHIRE,
WARWICKSHIRE,
WEST MIDLANDS
CONURBATION**

**CURRENTLY BASED AT
THE CUSTARD
FACTORY IN
BIRMINGHAM**



Community Planning

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- **Identifying groups previously excluded from the planning system or disadvantaged from years of not 'having a voice'**
- **Working with those groups to develop their ability to understand their opportunities and rights within the planning system**
- **Help them find the right channels to communicate their views better**
- **Assisting LPAs in seeing their function in the process from the community's viewpoint**
- **Assisting communities and local authorities to engage with each other to achieve their desired outcomes.**

- **Recognising diversity of interest groups**
- **Checking fair and balanced Community Involvement processes**
- **Facilitating participation in RSS and LDF consultation**
- **Helping identify key network groups**
- **Helping groups understand how the process includes them in influencing future decisions**
- **Helping build trust and comfort with the process**
- **Advising LPAs on design and delivery of Consultation Events**
- **Helping structure, plan and facilitate consultation events**
- **Holding Outreach surgeries at Traveller Events**
- **Recording comments at Events and writing consultation report**

- **Reviewing Accommodation Needs Assessments**
- **Seeing that LPAs are working with Groups**
- **Continued liaison with GLOs**
- **Helping diverse groups realistically to identify places where they want to live and what sort of sites they want**
- **Checking workable criteria-based LPA policies**
- **Looking for realistic and deliverable solutions**
- **Acting as a critical friend**