

Gypsies, Travellers and Planning Aid

**Regional Event – Shrewsbury
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What is Planning Aid?

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

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

Started by Town and Country Planning Association in 1973

Part of Royal Town Planning Institute

Funded by Department of Communities and Local Government

What do we do?

Aim to place community engagement at the heart of the planning system and to help people help themselves

CASEWORK

Advice line to a qualified and experienced planner dealing with detailed and complex planning matters

COMMUNITY PLANNING

Training, information and facilitation for groups about how planning may be affecting their community

The Team

- **Regional Manager**
- **Caseworker – a fully qualified planner to give independent advice and who will sometimes hand cases over to a volunteer**
- **Community Planners - who works alongside communities or groups in helping to plan their neighbourhood or to participate in the LDF process**
- **Volunteers – A network of dedicated Corporate (fully qualified) and Licentiate Planners**
- **Administrator**

Planning Aid seek to help people to...

- **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**
- **Signpost other advice services**

Where we operate

Regional Regeneration Zones and

Other areas of Deprivation in

- Herefordshire
- Shropshire
- Staffordshire
- Warwickshire
- Worcestershire
- West Midlands Conurbation



Community Planning

- **Identifying groups excluded from the planning system or disadvantaged from years of not 'having a voice'**
- **Working with them 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, and training them to participate at national, regional or local levels**
- **Organising educational projects on planning and the environment for all age groups**
- **Advising LPAs on structured and meaningful Community involvement and 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.**

Target Groups

- **People on low incomes**
- **Unemployed people**
- **Minority ethnic communities**
- **Women and women's groups**
- **Disabled people and disability groups**
- **Older people**
- **Children and young people**
- **Tenants' groups**
- **Community groups and voluntary charity organisations**
- **Focus on Regeneration Zones**

Eligibility

- **Advice to those who cannot afford to pay a planning consultant**
- **Key test on eligibility – ability to pay for professional advice**
- **Normally qualify if they receive any means tested income benefit**
- **Normally do not qualify for help to carry out development from which they will benefit or have previously used paid professional help on the matter**

How We Help

CASEWORK

Free initial telephone advice for all callers, then either signpost another organisation or provide a list of Planning Consultants or, assign volunteer to contact and try to help resolve matter

COMMUNITY PLANNING

Either responding to requests or contacting LPAs and groups to raise awareness of our service > devising programme or organising and /or participating in special events or longer term projects, and doing follow on work in the community

Help for Gypsies & Travellers

- **Recognising diversity of interest groups**
- **Checking for fair and balanced Community Involvement processes**
- **Facilitating participation in LDF consultation**
- **Helping identify key network groups**
- **Helping G & T 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**

Working with Gypsy & Traveller Groups

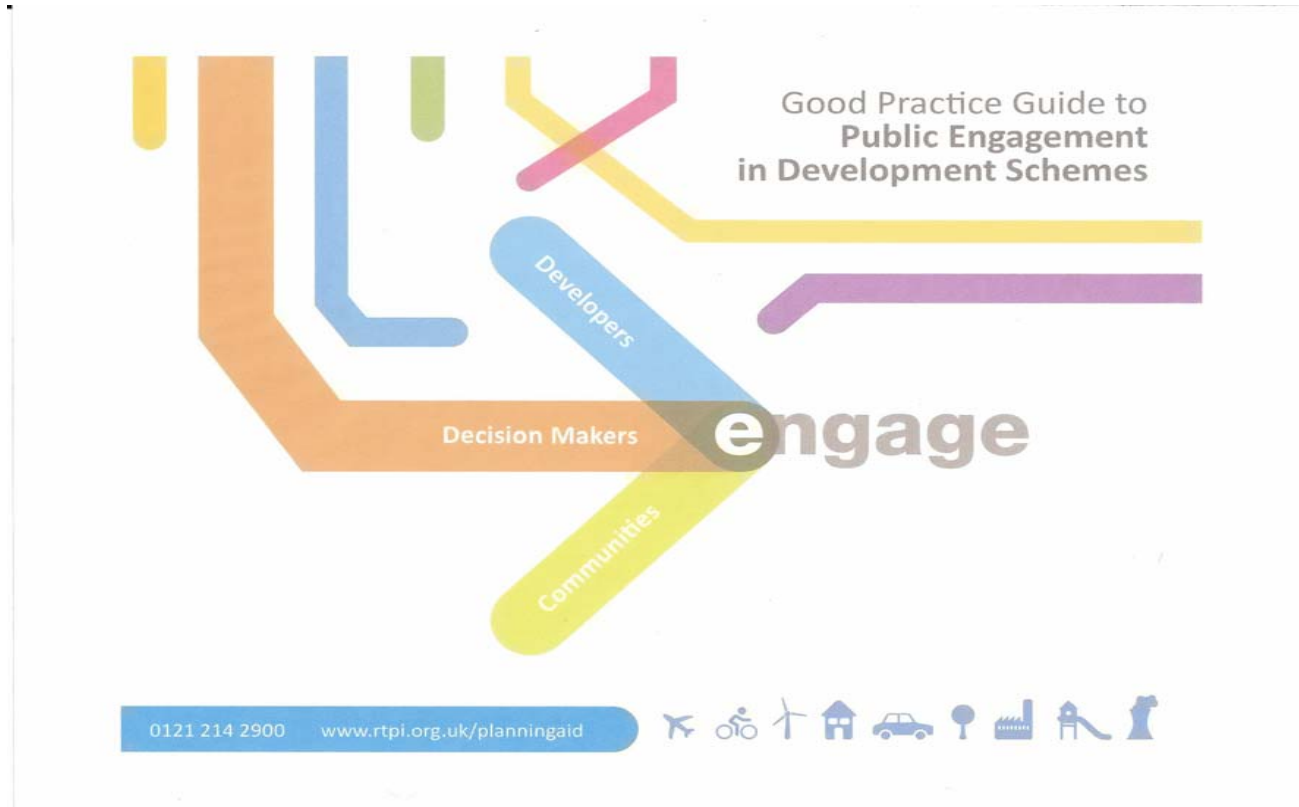
- **Seeing that LPAs are working with Groups**
- **Continued liaison with GLOs**
- **Helping diverse groups realistically to identify places where they want to live and what sort of sites they want**
- **Checking workable criteria-based LPA policies**
- **Looking for realistic and deliverable solutions**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

Working with the Settled Community

Subject to our eligibility criteria

- **Advise individuals or community groups on Gypsy and Traveller issues**
- **Provide advice on dealing with specific cases**

New Good Practice Guide



Contact information

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