

## **Planning Aid England**

### **Neighbourhood Planning: Lessons Learned**

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# What we do

- provide free, independent, professional planning advice to people who do not have the means to pay professional fees
- provide support and training to local communities so they can influence and contribute to planning strategy, policy and decision making
- Focus on Neighbourhood Planning Support

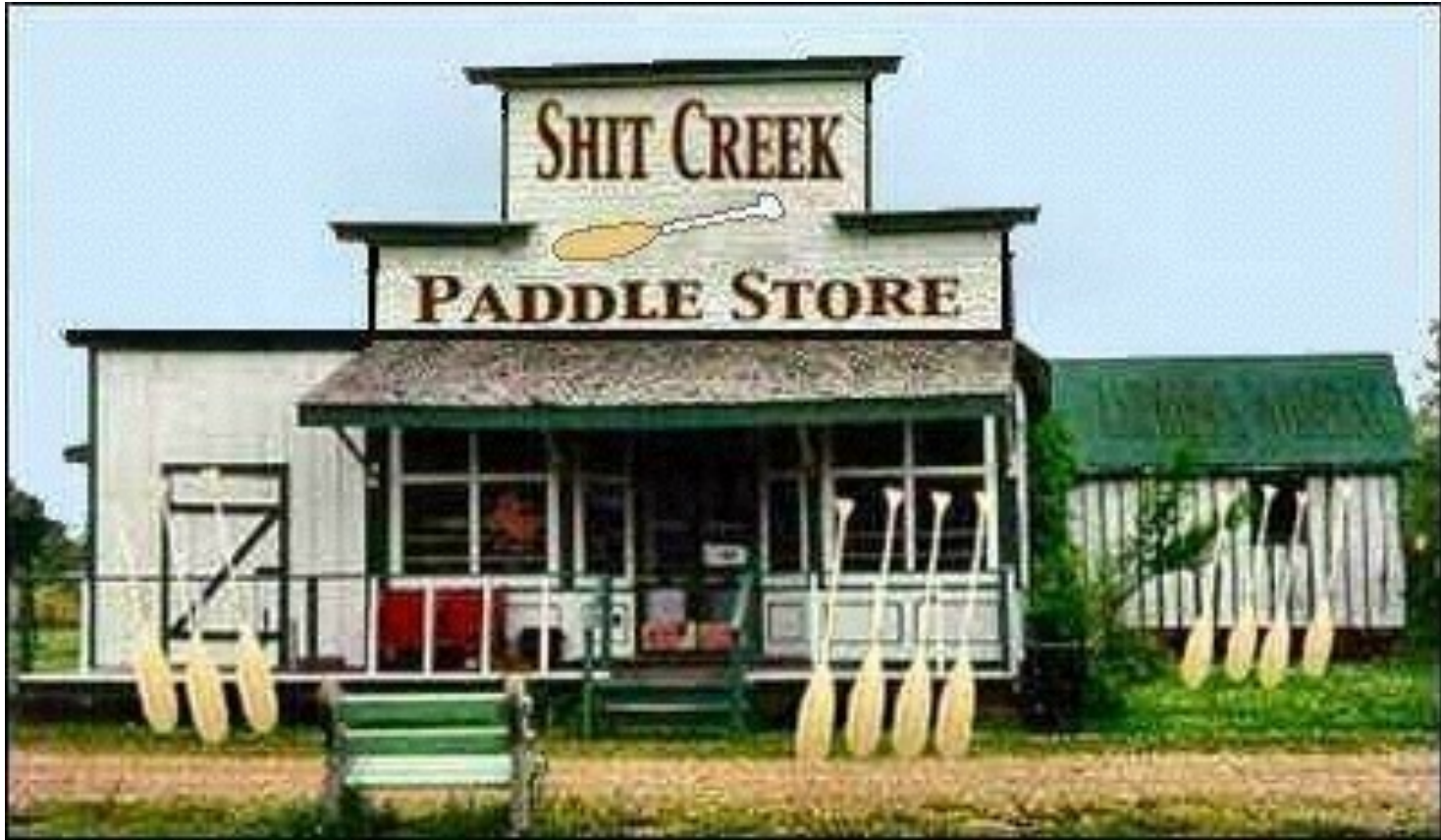


# Supporting Communities in Neighbourhood Planning 2013-2015

- Programme launched on 15 April 2013 and applications opened on 1 May 2013
- Two main aspects to support: grants and direct support
- Also a shared learning element
- There is one consortium delivering the programme, rather than four support organisations as before
- The programme is open to groups who have already had SCNP support and to new groups



# We Provide a Valuable Service...





# Happy Birthday Neighbourhood Planning!



# We've Come a Long Way!

- 998 Applications
- 842 Designations
- 88 Draft Plans
- 41 at Examination
- 13 Referendums
- 7 Made Plans



# We Are All Still Learning!



- Outstanding Judicial Reviews
- Some inconsistencies
- What is proportionate?
- Implications of out of date Local Plan



# Lessons Learned

- Not for everyone!
- Not an easy or short process!
- Has made a tangible difference to decision making
  - Planning applications
  - Appeals
- People are interested!
  - Turnout often in excess of local elections
  - Overwhelming YES votes





# Some Lessons are Worth Repeating

- Collaborative not divisive
- Evidence is more than just consultation
- This is a land use planning document
- Not a mechanism for blocking Local Plan housing figures
- Process must be transparent



# What Makes a Plan Successful?

- Focused
- Does what it does well
- Actually influences decision making
- Does not deal with every eventuality
- Compliments existing policy
- Monitoring and review



# Contact Details

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