

NP consultations: notional costings

To determine how much the cost of NP consultations may be I have looked at the budgets of similarly-sized parishes of a similar character to ours: Bodenham, Almeley, and Bartestree with Lugwardine. They are all in Herefordshire.

Like ours, the parishes are all rural and agricultural, quite dependent upon tourism, and not too far from larger towns. Like ours, they also contain Conservation Areas and AONB-designations. Their budgets all come in at **between £6,000 and £7,000**, for which they have received grants.

The grants are being used variously to pay for:-

- the hire of venues for public meetings
- stationery/printing/advertising
- web design
- maps
- questionnaire design and analysis
- travel expenses
- postage
- planning consultant's fees
- technical writer's fees

Another area I still want to find out about is the Blackdown Hills in East Devon, where nine or ten parishes are working together on neighbourhood planning. Again, the population size, economy and landscape characteristics of those parishes are similar to ours. Unfortunately it will be next week before I can provide more detail, but it will be available well before 21st July.

The working party is looking at six local examples as well, including St Cleer which has a neighbourhood planning exhibition on Saturday, 12th July, from 10.00 to 17.00. St Cleer is working on a budget of only £1,500 by using in-house expertise (presumably *pro bono*). I will contact Derris Watson next week and visit the exhibition, so will be able to furnish you with further details later but in time for 21st.

Yvonne

Neighbourhood Planning - notional costs

Other parishes in the country very similar to Linkinhorne in size of population and land use have received grant support of between £6,000 and £7,000 for the production of their neighbourhood plans. Below is an example of somewhere with distinct differences and similarities which is very local.

St Cleer Parish NDP costs

St Cleer's Neighbourhood Development Plan is ready to go to the examination stage. It has cost less than £1,500 to produce.

The following has been taken from the website www.bodminplans.net with permission of Cllr Derris Watson, Chair of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group.

Nov. '13	Newsletter	1500 x 6-page A4 Newsletter/Survey, printed & delivered by hand to every home in villages, posted with SAE to remote homes	£327
Dec. '13	Public meeting	Hire of hall; 2 x display board; materials; refreshments	£337
Feb '14	Public meeting	Hire of hall; materials; refreshments	£105
April '14	Newsletters	As before	£327
April '14	Final Consultation exhibition	Hire of hall; materials; refreshments	£380
Total			£1476

St Cleer's costs have been kept low not least because its plan has been written largely by Cllr Watson herself, guided by her knowledge and experience of national and local planning policy. Do we have anyone similarly qualified in Linkinhorne?

Available support

Two types of support for Neighbourhood Planning are available from Planning Aid England and Locality.

Direct support - available only to neighbourhood areas already officially designated. Provides free expert advice individually tailored to particular needs of neighbourhood areas. Assists in completing the various different stages of NP. Last deadline of current programme 1st July 2014. Future application deadline dates to be announced.

Grant support - grants of up to £7,000 per neighbourhood area. Grants can cover start-up costs, training sessions, required studies (e.g. surveys and reports), expert advice, printing costs, website development, etc.