

## Planning Aid

Planning Aid <http://www.rtpi.org.uk/planning-aid/> offers a range of services including:

- A free web resource called Planning Aid Direct which provides answers to questions people often ask about planning; clear, simple explanations of how the planning system works, and signposting on where to go next;
- Neighbourhood planning advice and guidance as part of the Supporting Communities in Neighbourhood Planning initiative;
- An advice service - professionally qualified Planning Advisors answer enquiries, for a maximum of 15 minutes, on planning related issues in England either via email or over the phone;
- Additional support for eligible individuals, communities and groups. This may cover training on the planning process, and specific advice and assistance on making representations on the Local Plan, responding to a planning application or appealing against a planning application decision; and
- Planning Aid is looking to expand its services and offers mediation and wider community engagement support and assistance.

Planning Aid has limited resources and tries to focus on those who really need its help and cannot get assistance from elsewhere. With this in mind:

- Planning Aid **does not** provide pre-application advice about a specific site or planning application. It always refers enquirers to the relevant local planning authority for pre-application advice:  
<http://www.chiltern.gov.uk/article/2697/Pre-applicationpost-decision-planning-advice-Guidance>
- Planning Aid **does not** provide free advice to other professionals (e.g. architects, surveyors) or business owners who may find it helpful to use the RTPI [Directory of Planning Consultants](#) to find a professional planner in the relevant area.