

# Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan Community & Town Council Stakeholder Event

## **Introduction**

Preparation of the Local Development Plan is underpinned by a strong commitment to community involvement. It provides all parts of the community with an opportunity to get involved in the planning system in their area and encourages a wide range of organisations and groups to work with the County Council to help set the broad strategy of the plan from a very early stage of preparation. So while Carmarthenshire County Council as local planning authority is responsible for producing the plan, it is essential that its preparation and content reflect and take account of the views and preferences of the community at large, and that it is based on consensus.

As representatives of the local community, community and town councils were invited to attend a Stakeholder event organised at County Hall, Carmarthen on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2009. This event sought to introduce the LDP process, provide an understanding of respective roles and to encourage meaningful participation. The event was organised by Carmarthenshire County Council in association with One Voice Wales - the principal organisation for community and town councils in Wales.

The session provided attendees with an understanding of the new development plan system and guidance on how to most effectively participate throughout the formulation of the plan. The event represented an important early opportunity to develop an understanding of the Local Development Plan from the formulation of its vision, key objectives and strategic context onwards. These are all things which will shape the future use of land within the County.

The event was facilitated by Planning Aid Wales, and its Chief Executive Elwyn Thomas. Planning Aid Wales is an independent provider of planning information, expertise and advice, working to increase public involvement in all aspects of the planning process. They have extensive experience of organising and managing these types of events.

The attendees were encouraged to actively participate in the proceedings and to feed the information back to their respective councils. Any questions or queries that the representatives had during the session were explained in lay mans terms by the facilitator and any feedback in respect of LDP preparation was recorded as 'messages' (see below) which would be passed to the Local Authority for consideration as part of the plan-making process.

## **Messages to Carmarthenshire County Council**

1. Request for guidance and assistance in the preparation of individual Council's Community Plans - where information compiled as part of the LDP process would be of assistance.
2. Improved feedback is needed in respect of Community/Town Council involvement in LDP preparation and how their views and comments have been utilised by the Authority.

3. Request for more time to consider planning applications. Whilst this is not a matter for the LDP Team, the message will be passed to the Development Control Section.
4. Request for information and feedback on Key Stakeholder Forum events and meetings.
5. Request for two months prior notice of forthcoming Community/Town Council meetings to be held later in the year.
6. Request for a lay person summary of forthcoming LDP Preferred Strategy and any other relevant Pre-Deposit LDP documents.
7. Request for a summary of the Wales Spatial Plan and how its contents will be incorporated into the LDP. Include good practice examples where possible.
8. Attendees thanked the County Council for their effort in organising the event.