Supporting Communities and Neighbourhoods in Planning

WANTED! PLANNING CHAMPIONS

Volunteer: Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) and National Association of Local Councils (NALC)

The opportunity

CPRE in partnership with NALC are seeking to provide a number of exciting opportunities throughout the country for individuals to become Planning Champions. This is as part of the Supporting Communities and Neighbourhoods in Planning (SNCP) project.

Planning Champions will be volunteers who are available to use their experience of local engagement in the planning system to enthuse people about the value of getting involved in planning to shape the future of your local area. This might be through speaking at a local meeting or writing up their experience as a case study.

We hope that Champions will be able to draw out lessons learnt from their own experiences about what worked well, what didn’t work and what the main challenges were, to help people to consider how they might get involved in collaborative planning approaches, including neighbourhood planning, in the future.

The role will initially run until 31 March 2012, although there is the potential for this period to be extended if further grant funding is secured.

Time commitment

The time that this role will require is relatively flexible but we hope, with the support of the project team, that Champions will be able to (where possible):

- Develop a case study based on their experience to date of collaborative
planning (we would appreciate this as a minimum, as their prior experience is vital!);
- Attend and, if suitable, speak at one or more events within their county or region;
- Consider attending co-ordinated support events in London; and
- Seek to promote planning and enthuse communities within their area.

**The benefits of volunteering as a Planning Champion**

The role offers the following benefits:

- Availability of a strong, centrally coordinated support network through the SCNP project;
- Opportunity to attend ‘bonus’ events, such as seminars and lunches hosted by the SCNP Project Team;
- The ability to network and meet other Champions and planners;
- The ability to learn more about planning; and
- The ability to make a real difference to your community, county and region

**The Supporting Communities and Neighbourhoods in Planning (SCNP) project**

The project is funded by the Government and seeks to provide impartial advice, guidance and assistance to communities to encourage engagement with the planning system in their local area. More information is available on the Planning Help website.

**Skills/ qualifications**

Most importantly we need people who are enthusiastic! But ideally each Planning Champion will also meet the following criteria as a minimum:

- Good communication skills, both verbal and written;
- An understanding, and experience, of planning, although a professional qualification is not required;
- Availability to commit to a suitable amount of their time to fulfill their core duties (along with the additional attendance of one-off events etc);
- A neutral and pragmatic stance on local planning issues.

Reasonable expenses (e.g. travel) will be payable to each Champion to enable them to fulfill their duties.
HOW TO APPLY

Can we please request that to ensure a structured approach to the Planning Champion recruitment process, all applicants express an interest in the role via the Do-It website. Please click the tab below to express your interest in the position and then follow these simple steps:

- On the Do-It homepage, complete the boxes in the pink section by selecting ‘environment’ from the drop down list, and entering your county. Click ‘find it’.
- Once the list of results is returned, click on the middle tab marked ‘within a particular area’ which includes the black outline of a district.
- The Planning Champion role for your county should then be advertised.

REQUEST TO APPLICANTS: When responding to this advert through Do-It we would be grateful if all applicants could also provide an indication of relevant experience in planning (in particular community planning), report writing and why they are well suited to the role - we certainly won’t underestimate the part that enthusiasm has to play!

All expressions of interest for the latest round of ‘Champion’ roles are invited prior to the end of January 2012, although recruitment will continue past this date.

WE WOULD LOVE YOU TO GET INVOLVED.