

Here are some examples of areas we work in:



Neighbourhood and community-led action planning

We work with communities, big or small, to help them identify issues in their neighbourhood and think about how to change or improve them to make where they live a better place. We are an independent facilitator, bringing together stakeholders and giving residents the tools and confidence to influence change.

Neighbourhood planning

We are working with a Government funded front runner project, supporting the community and officers to prepare a neighbourhood plan. The Planning for Real® process ties in perfectly with the localism agenda, empowering residents to lead change and shape development in their local area.

Service reform

Our participative and visual way of working is perfect for looking at service delivery and how or where improvements can be made.

Housing

Whether it is a new estate, the regeneration of an existing one or the reconfiguration of housing stock, we can help. Our methods bring plans to life to make the proposed changes easy for residents to visualise, understand and have a say on.

Pre-planning application consultations

We facilitate pre-planning application consultations and have an excellent track record of engaging with all sections of communities.

Young people

We have had great success engaging with young people. Recent projects include working with youth centres across Birmingham to support young people to set up social enterprises and engaging with young people using social media to capture their views on their community and national issues that concern them.

Education

We regularly work with local primary school pupils who not only help us to make the 3D Planning for Real® model of their neighbourhood, but also have the opportunity to express their own views. In the past we have trained older pupils to lead consultations on issues such as journeys to school and the provision of activities and facilities in their community.

Transport

Whether you are looking to consult about a local transport improvement project, or you would like to team up with us as part of a partnership on a larger project, we bring 25 years experience of successful community engagement to the table.

Visit planningforreal.org.uk to read about some of the projects we have worked on.



Get in touch to find out more

Our core Planning for Real team, led by Margaret Wilkinson MBE, is based in Darlaston in the West Midlands. We also have a team of skilled, trained and experienced Planning for Real consultants based around the country who work for us on a freelance basis.

Planning for Real

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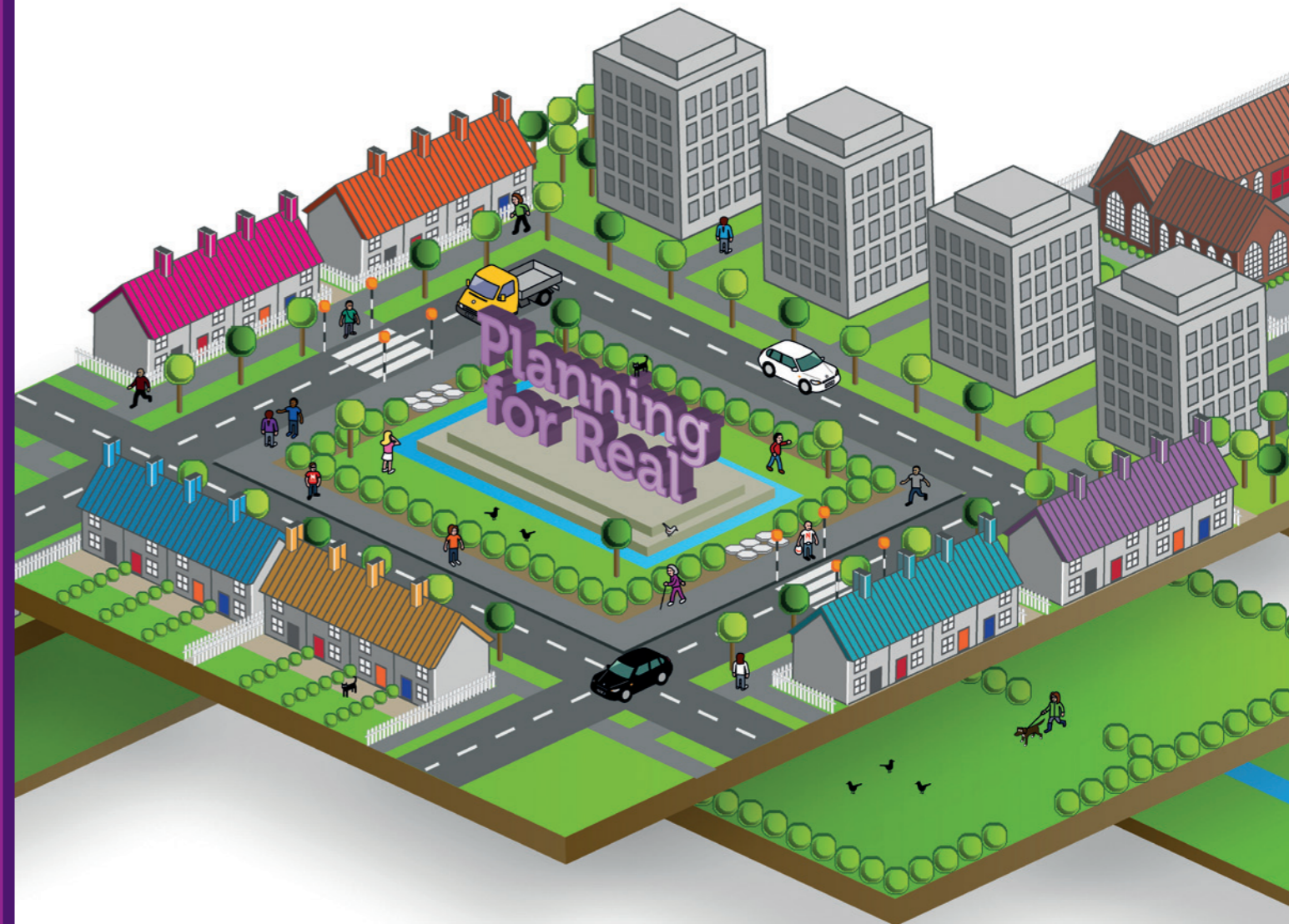


Our exclusive Planning for Real® model is a registered trademark and is part of the Accord Group, one of the largest housing associations in the West Midlands.



Supporting communities

to bring about change and shape their neighbourhoods



planningforreal.org.uk

Planning for Real is both the name of our organisation as well as the nationally renowned community planning process which is exclusive to us. We work with communities to enable them to have a real say about what happens in their neighbourhoods. We help them design and run community engagement programmes so that their voice is heard on topics such as neighbourhood planning, new housing developments, regeneration projects and service delivery. Over the last 25 years we have helped thousands of people across the world shape the neighbourhoods and communities where they live.



What we do

Local authorities, housing providers and community groups commission us to design and run community engagement programmes. We offer a range of techniques all of which are visual, tactile, participatory and community-led.

We are best known for our exclusive Planning for Real® model. This is a community planning process based on a 3D model which allows residents to register their views on a range of issues, work together to identify priorities and in partnership with local agencies go on to develop an action plan for change.

Our other techniques include Building Design – a visual process for involving residents in the design of new buildings and the remodelling of existing ones, ideas walls, concentric circles – a method for stakeholder mapping and building consensus, aspiration trees, and planning and evaluation tools.

We provide training for communities wishing to use our techniques and we can facilitate anything from a single workshop to an entire programme of community engagement. Clients can choose from a range of different levels of support, which can be tailored to meet the needs of their projects.

How we work

With a 25 year track record and a national remit, we have designed and facilitated community engagement programmes on diverse scales and issues. We have a reputation for reaching and gathering views from all sections of communities, including those whose voice is rarely heard.

We are always looking for new and innovative projects to get involved in. We are happy to team up with partners and to provide the community engagement element of bids and tenders.

Get in touch with us to discuss your plans, we're here to help and what's more, it will probably cost less than you think.



Who we work with

We have worked with many clients and hundreds of communities on a wide range of topics. We have run pre-planning consultations for Cathedral Group, worked with residents in South Abingdon to develop their neighbourhood action plan and worked on the Leigh Neighbours Big Local Project. Here are some other examples:

Waterhead Academy

Commissioned by Oldham Council, we worked with a group of pupils representing the two schools that have merged to become Waterhead Academy in Oldham. The pupils were trained and supported to undertake a consultation process which saw them engage with other pupils, staff and the local community around journeys to the new Academy site.

Parks masterplanning in Leighton Linlade

A consultation exercise for Leighton Linlade Town Council about what improvements were needed to Pages Park and Mentmore Road Memorial Gardens. The town council were reviewing the facilities offered in both parks to inform the long-term plan and future leisure and recreational development in the parks.



Prices

We offer different levels of support for clients to choose from, which can be tailored to meet the needs of the project. For that reason it is difficult to give anything but a general outline of prices.

Prices for a Planning for Real® type consultation start from around £2,500 (exc VAT) for the lowest level of support, where the community group are trained in Planning for Real® and facilitate the process themselves, to around £10,000 where the Planning for Real team take responsibility for delivering each stage of the process. There is flexibility though, and scope to keep costs down if the group or client is able to take on more responsibility.

For clients using our other techniques, costs are dependent on the number of days of training or support required. Prices start from as low as £400 for designing and running a half-day event.

Contact us at info@planningforreal.org.uk or call us on 0121 568 7070 to discuss your requirements in more detail.

Cottam Hall masterplan review

We worked for the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and Preston City Council as part of a team led by Atkins, and including John Rowland Urban Design, to engage local residents in the masterplan review for the Cottam Hall development in Preston.

Queen Camel neighbourhood plan

We supported residents and South Somerset District Council in Queen Camel, one of the Government's neighbourhood planning front runners, to update their parish plan and develop a neighbourhood plan for the area.



What sets us apart?

Our creative way of working and our unique techniques set us apart. Individuals and communities who use our methods find that they build their own skills and confidence through the engagement process. Many residents who have been involved with Planning for Real have gone on to become more active within their communities, and community groups develop a renewed sense of purpose and momentum.

We can help you design an interactive, visual and inclusive workshop or programme of events. It isn't just about us delivering the engagement process for you. We want to support communities in facilitating the events and leading the process so that they develop a sense of ownership and their own skills and experience along the way.

Our aim for every project is to empower local people so that they are fully involved, their voices are heard and they have an active role to play in bringing about change. Our skill is in bringing people together and using genuinely collaborative methods to bring about locally-led solutions through informed decision making.

