

## **Brief – workshop Southwark Group of Tenants Organisations [DRAFT]**

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### **Introduction**

Planning Aid for London (PAL) has been asked to deliver a workshop for members of the New Homes Group, started by Southwark Group of Tenants Organisation (SGTO) in Southwark. This document is drafted for PAL volunteers, to give them instructions on how they should prepare for the workshop. At least two volunteers are needed to help prepare and deliver the workshop. The document is shared with SGTO and members, so they know what to expect of the workshop.

The document identifies outputs for the workshop; lists learning outcomes; suggest a preliminary agenda; gives background information on the workshop; and sets out a delivery plan.

### **Outputs**

The following outputs are prepared for the workshop, shared with participants, and then further improved on (if needed):

1. List of key concerns and aspirations, which can form the basis of a community vision for how housing development should take place (participants should think about this before the workshop).
2. A reference library of relevant policies in the Local Plan and London Plan, so that participants can use these in future responses to planning applications. This should be organised around two topics: infill development and rooftop development. But they should also relate to the other concerns that residents have raised with SGTO (see section on background below).
3. A template for making a response to a planning application. The template should include:
  - Instructions on how residents submit a response (online and offline)
  - Instructions on where residents find information about a planning application
  - Instructions on how residents draft a response
  - An example of a draft response

### **Learning outcomes**

PAL has a community training outline (available on the Google Drive for PAL volunteers), which identifies five building blocks for our community training. For each building block, the outline suggests learning outcomes. These learning outcomes will define the content of the workshop. The following learning outcomes are identified for this workshop as the most relevant:

#### *Learning outcomes related to dreaming a different neighbourhood*

- Participants understand how the training can help people express the problems they are facing.
- Participants can identify the key actors in planning and know where to find information about planning activities in their areas.

#### *Learning outcomes related to the Local Plan*

- Participants know where to find the Local Plan and understand the purpose of the Local Plan.

- Participants understand that councillors/planners make decisions about new development based on the Local Plan.
- Participants know how to read the Local Plan. They know they should:
  - Focus on the bold policies in the Local Plan.
  - Focus on the wording of the policy.

*Learning outcomes related to what planning can do*

- Participants know the two key elements of the planning system (policy-making and development management), and the purpose of each, including:
  - NPPF;
  - Local Plan;
  - Neighbourhood Plan;
  - Development management;

*Learning outcomes related to development management*

- Participants know the key stages of the development process
- Participants know how to object to a planning application
- Participants understand that decisions are made based on the Local Plan

*Learning outcomes 'keeping it real'*

- Participants understand the restricted role of community participation in planning
- Participants know current planning reform is further limiting democratic participation in planning
- Participants understand how Planning Aid for London can offer further support

**Preliminary agenda**

It's been suggested the online workshop should be split in two groups: one focussed on rooftop development, the other on infill development. The workshop agenda has been drafted for an online event (on Zoom). It will therefore last no longer than 1.5 hours. If it is decided to deliver the workshop in person, the outline of the agenda will not change significantly. Instead, there will be more time to deliver components of the workshop.

The following agenda is suggested:

1. Introductions and welcome (15 mins)
2. **Exercise 1:** Split up in two groups; on infill development and rooftop development. (10 mins)
  - a. What are people's concerns? What do people want to achieve – use a Miro Board to list these
3. **Presentation:** Planning applications – how to prepare an objection (20 mins, inclusive of Q&A)
4. **Break-out session:** Split up in two groups; on infill development and rooftop development. (10 mins)
  - a. Participants discuss the following:
    - i. What was clear about the presentation? What not?
    - ii. How will the information help me address concerns? And achieve my goals?
5. **Feedback** to the group (10 mins)
  - a. Any questions?
  - b. What have we missed?
6. **Strategising:** take stock of the workshop materials (10 mins)
  - a. Present the following three workshop materials

- i. List of concerns
    - ii. Reference library planning policy
    - iii. Template for making a response
  - b. In break-out groups, people will discuss:
    - i. Is it clear what the workshop materials are?
    - ii. How will we use them?
    - iii. How will we make sure other residents will use them?
7. **Feedback** to the group (10 mins)
  - a. Focus on what steps participants will take to prepare for the planning applications
  - b. Use Miro Board to keep track of next steps.
8. **Close** (5 mins)
  - a. Participants are asked to give feedback on the workshop

### **Background on PAL workshops**

In March PAL has delivered a workshop to members of SGTO on how Southwark Council is planning for delivering new social homes through rooftop extensions. The workshop focussed on:

- Residents' rights in the planning system
- The stages of a planning application
- What are material considerations?
- How a planning application relates to the Local Plan
- How to prepare an objection

The next workshop should help participants prepare for planning applications coming forward for estates. It will help participants prepare responses and offer resources, so they can encourage other residents to get engaged too.