

Top 10 Planning Tips

- 1.** Be clear in your own mind what it is you want but also be prepared to be flexible.
- 2.** Check out your ideas and plans by using the Government's Planning Portal www.planningportal.gov.uk as here you will find lots of useful information and advice. Find your LPA and check out its requirements.
- 3.** Decide whether or not you actually need to apply for planning permission because what you want to do may very well fall under 'Permitted Development'.
- 4.** If you are unsure whether what you want to do will be acceptable to your LPA then think seriously about paying for some 'Pre-Application Advice' from one of its planning officers.
- 5.** If you think your planning application might be seen to be contentious by your parish or town council, then ask to give a 'pre-application presentation' to your council before submitting it to your LPA.
- 6.** If you are going to make your own planning application, make sure that you use the correct form (as there are many of them).
- 7.** Make sure you supply your LPA with all the information and correct fee it requires, because if you don't then your planning application will not be validated and there will be a further delay until you provide everything required.
- 8.** Be realistic with regard to your abilities to fill in forms, draw scaled plans, write design and access statements, provide energy statements and surveys, speak in public to a LPA Planning Committee and so on.
- 9.** If you have any reservations about going it on your own then don't hesitate to seek the help of a planning expert or consultant.
- 10.** Select a planning consultant who can provide you with all the help and support you need, and whose charges are very reasonable with no hidden costs.