

Discuss the planning process in detail and also identify the role of town planner as a lead and economist, geographer, environmentalist, architect, civil engineer and sociologist as supporting in plan making.

Answer

1. Introduction:-

Town planning is a multi-sectoral process that involves the collaborative effort of various experts from multiple fields to make a holistic plan that is resident centric as well as sustainable and futuristic. It is the multi-disciplinary approach of town planners which makes them the most suitable candidate to lead a town planning team. Other experts can definitely play their role by adding their expert opinion to the plan in areas that align with their field of expertise.

2. Town Planning — a holistic process:

We get a good understanding of the town planning process from

the words of Sir John Adams
(town planner of London and
NRE):-

"Town planning is a science
and an art, an a movement
of policy concerned with shaping
and guiding of physical growth
and arrangement of towns in
harmony with their social and
economic needs."

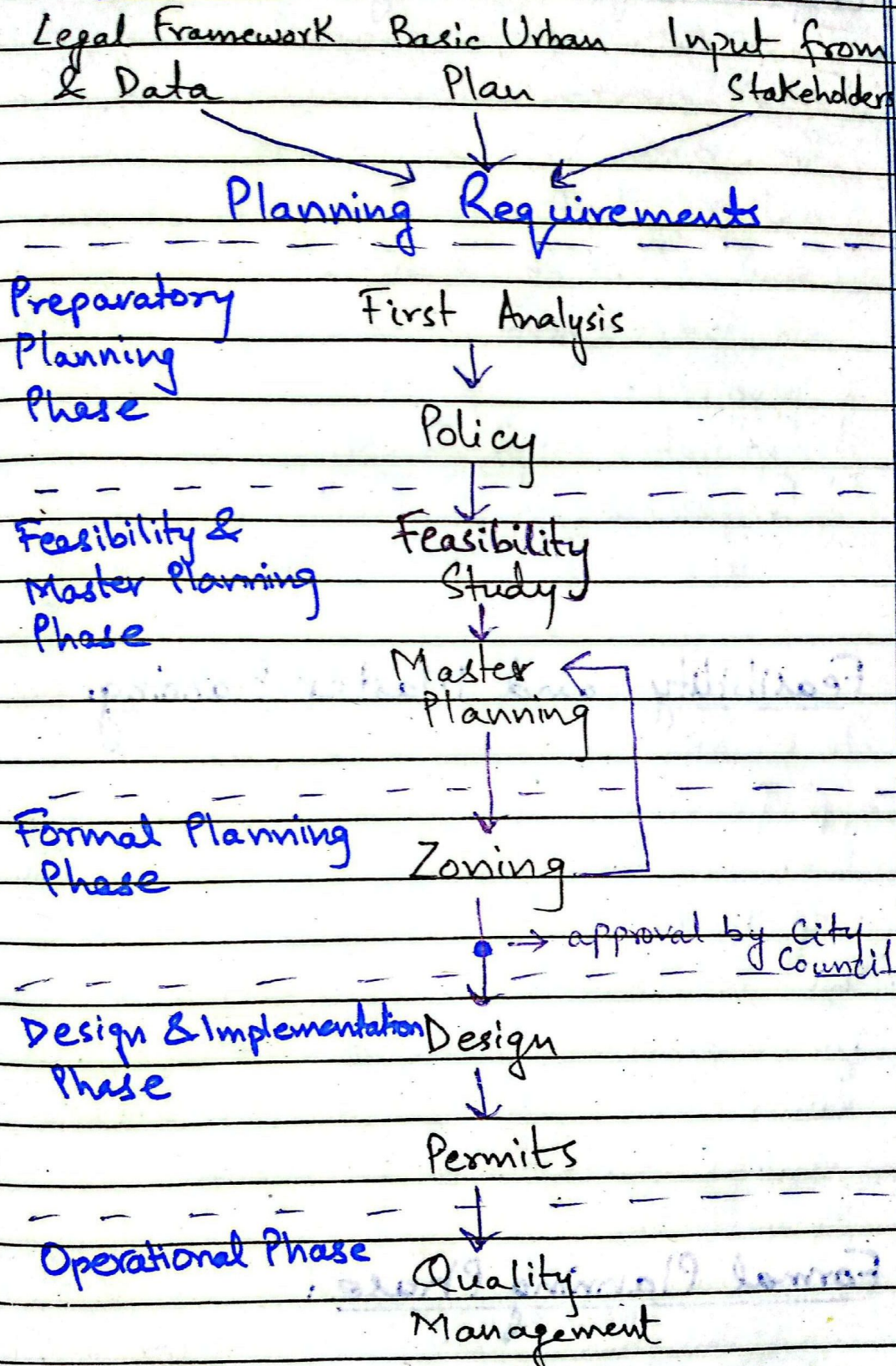
This definition highlights how
Town planning is a field that
involves lessons from diverse
fields of art and sciences.

3. Planning Process:-

The town planning
process is a rigorous process
which involves several phases
including data collection, policy
formulation, formal planning phase,
design and implementation phase
and analysis phase. All of
these steps collectively ensure
that the plan is long-term,
sustainable, amenable, citizen-
centric and fully aligned
with the aims and goals
of the community.

4. Urban/Town Planning Process

Details:-



The flow-sheet above highlights the major steps in the town planning process. The details each is provided below:-

a) Preparatory Planning Phase:-

This step begins with the input from previous town plans of the area, legal and policy actions taken about the area and other frameworks available in this regard. This step then involves:-

- i) Exploration and Scoping
- ii) Pre-checks and first assessments
- iii) Policy and Vision statements

b) Feasibility and Master Planning:

This step involves the formulation of feasibility studies on various themes like mobility, environment, impact, etc.

This is followed by master plan formulation and urban designs, contracts and agreement between various stakeholders.

c) Formal Planning Phase:

This may involve adapting previous zoning plans and creating new land use plans, building regulation plans and taking legal steps to get the plan approved by city Council.

d) Design and Implementation Phase:-

This step includes making final building plans, plans for green spaces, public parks, plazas and getting permits for buildings and environmental management according to the law.

e) Operational Phase:-

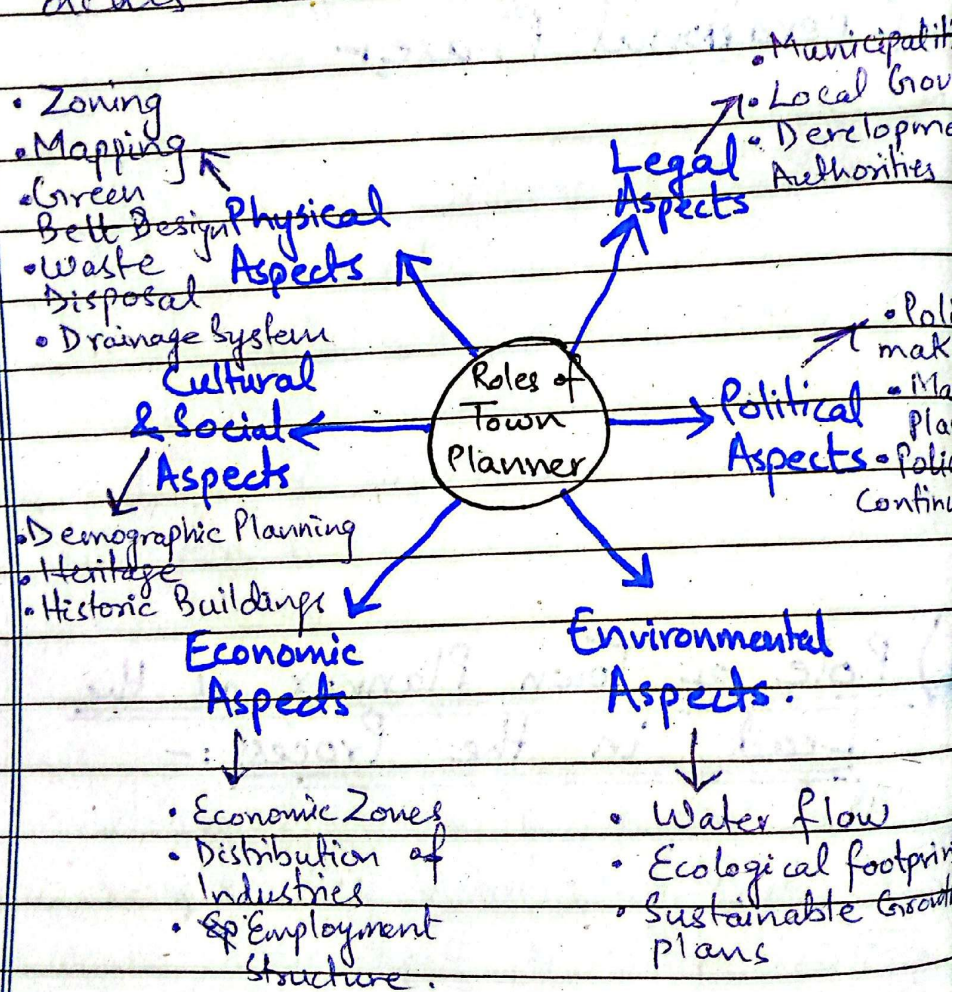
This is the final phase in the process where the planners work to ensure the quality maintenance of the urban plan via continuous monitoring, analysis and modification of the plan where required.

5) Role of Town Planner as the Lead in the Process:-

The town planner plays the central role in this process. This role is that of a coordinator, administrator and a peace maker between conflicting interests and tendencies. A town planner leads the process from the front by paying due focus to the following aspects of the process:-

- Physical aspects
- Cultural and Social aspects
- Economic aspects
- Environmental and Ecological aspect
- Political and Legal aspects.

The following diagram highlights these aspects that a planner deals with as a team lead.



6) Role of Supporting Team Members :-

Although the team head is a town planner, the

experts from other field can be really crucial to the planning process. Let's take a look at some of the roles of these experts.

a) Economist:-

An economist can help the planner devise economic feasibility plans and resource allocation plans. They can also help design a plan that ensure economic sustainability of town under development.

b) Geographer:-

A geographer can help the planner see how the living and non-living aspects of an area collaborate. They can advise on the construction of buildings that suit the terrain while also helping maintain the natural features of the place.

c) Environmentalist:-

In any town plan, an environmentalist can help add sustainability factor. They can ensure that the plan is according to the ecological demand and environmental standards.

d) Architect :-

An architect provides the basic designs and aesthetic framework for the buildings and public works. They can ensure that the plan is safe, secure and includes features that fit well with the environment.

e) Civil Engineer :-

The construction and maintenance of infrastructure like roads, mass transit systems, bridges, and sewage networks can be overseen by the civil engineer. They can ensure that the plan is robust and capable of supporting growth.

f) Sociologist :-

A sociologist has a clear understanding of the social behaviours and social stratification within a community and so, they can help design towns that allow social cohesion, community engagement, and inclusivity.