

East Hampshire District Council

Ropley Neighbourhood Plan

Decision Statement

Published pursuant to the Localism Act 2011 Schedule 38A(9) and Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

Summary

In accordance with the above regulations, and following a positive referendum result, East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) made the Ropley Neighbourhood Plan (2015-2028) on 19 September 2019. The Neighbourhood Plan now forms part of the statutory Development Plan for East Hampshire District Council.

Background

On 26 March 2015 EHDC designated the Ropley Neighbourhood Area for the purpose of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. The plan area covers the parish of Ropley and lies solely within the East Hampshire District Council Planning Area. Ropley Parish Council, the qualifying body, submitted the draft Ropley Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents to EHDC in 12 December 2018. Following submission of the Ropley Neighbourhood Plan, EHDC publicised the Plan and supporting documents and invited representations during the consultation period which ran from 14 December 2018 – 25 January 2019. EHDC, with the consent of Ropley Parish Council, appointed an independent examiner, Mr Andrew Ashcroft, to review the Plan and consider whether it should proceed to referendum. The Examiner's Report was received on 15 April 2019 and recommended that, subject to a number of proposed modifications, the Plan should proceed to referendum. The modifications are required to ensure that the Plan meets the basic conditions set out in the legislation (Para 8(2) Schedule 4B Town and Country Planning Act 1990). The examiner also recommended that the area for the referendum be based on the designated neighbourhood area which the Plan relates to.

Decision and Reasons for the Decision

Paragraph 38A(4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the Council to make the Neighbourhood Plan if more than half of those voting in a referendum have voted in favour of the Plan being used to help to decide planning applications in the area.

A local referendum was held in Ropley on 11 July 2019 to decide whether the local community were in favour of the Ropley Neighbourhood Plan. From the votes recorded, 300 out of 342 (87.7%) of those who voted were in favour of the plan. The turnout of electors was 25.23%. The Council has also assessed and concluded that

the plan, including its preparation, does not breach, and would not otherwise be incompatible with, any EU obligation or any of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).

As such, the council decided the following, at the Full Council meeting on the 19 September 2019 to:

‘make the Ropley Neighbourhood Plan with immediate effect, with the consequence that it becomes part of the statutory development plan for the area.’

This decision statement can be viewed on the East Hampshire District Council website at: <https://www.easthants.gov.uk/ropley-neighbourhood-plan>

Hard copies of the Neighbourhood Plan and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report: Adoption Statement is available for inspection or purchase from:

East Hampshire District Council, Penns Place, Petersfield, Hampshire, GU31 4EX (weekdays 9.00 to 17.00, Monday to Friday. Further information can be obtained from the Planning Policy Team on 01730 234102 or neighbourhoodplans@easthants.gov.uk

Victoria Potts

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17th September