



Rowlands Castle Neighbourhood Plan

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Rowlands Castle Parish Council Meeting Monday 1st February 2021

Report of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Since the last Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) report to the Parish Council (PC) on 5 October 2020, the NPSG has continued to meet regularly via Zoom and to develop the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) draft policies.

Following the PC's decision at its July meeting to appoint terra firma Consultancy Ltd, to produce a Settlement Character Assessment (SCA) covering the built areas in the parish, this was completed on 1 November. The SCA is now available on the RCPC website, and contains information relevant to planning applications as well as including future Development Considerations and recommended Management Objectives for preserving and enhancing the character of these built areas. It is providing supporting evidence for the NP content.

Further formal advice has been obtained from consultant John Slater on designation of Local Green and Open spaces, under a minor task arranged by Lisa Walker.

While still developing the draft policies, the main recent NPSG activity has also included seeking further input from residents, by consulting organisations and businesses in the parish to obtain their inputs to the NP. Zoom meetings have been held with the RCA, the WI, Halls Garage, and the U3A, and further such meetings are being organised to gain evidence for the content of NP policies. These meetings have supported the content of the draft policies, but have also raised issues not within the remit of the NP to address fully, or resolve. These relate to the well-known issues of increasing traffic volume, village car parking capacity, and speeding traffic. In addition to the meetings, it is also intended to organise an online questionnaire consultation to obtain further evidence.

The NPSG aims to proceed with development of the NP in order to hold a public consultation as soon as possible, subject to the current restrictions on meeting.

We continue to be very grateful for the ongoing vital support of Lisa Walker and Gill Whatley in facilitating the NP development activities.

Ian Young
Chairman RCNPSG