



Rowlands Castle Neighbourhood Plan

11 The Green, Rowlands Castle, Hampshire PO9 6BW
Tel: 02392 413044 and Email: projects@rowlandscastlepc.org.uk

Rowlands Castle Parish Council Meeting Monday 1st October 2018

Brief Report of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

For various reasons, this appears to be the first report by the NPSG to the Parish Council since early May! Whatever the reasons, please accept my apologies for this long delay.

My report in May was fairly comprehensive and outlined the decisions that the NPSG had been forced to take as a consequence of the government's decision to review Local Plans every 5 years, and EHDC's request that progress towards delivery of our RCNP be 'slowed down' (or temporarily stopped!). However, I also explained that while we had voted to slow down our rate of progress, we were keen to work closely with EHDC.

Also, until it was clear what the EHDC plans were, RCNPSG would carry on preparing information (evidence) about NP policies that were also capable of being used as evidence to enable us to rebut or challenge any developing EHDC LP policies that we considered might be undesirable from the RCNP perspective.

The agreed RCNP **Vision** is: ***"To conserve and enhance the parish of Rowlands Castle as an attractive community whilst maintaining its separate identity, character and distinctiveness"***.

We again had a NP stall at the Village Fair in July, and we had a very useful meeting with EHDC and SDNPA on 7th August, when it was made clear to us that EHDC (and SDNPA) would not allow any key strategic matters to be delegated to the Parishes – and the most politically sensitive policy issue was new housing provision! However, it was a very informative and helpful meeting. A note of that meeting is available if anyone would like more information.

The NPSG is preparing a "Housing Needs" survey (questionnaire) which it is hoped will be sent out to all households in the Parish by end of next week. A copy of this draft questionnaire can be made available to any Parish Councillor that would like to see it.

EHDC have invited RC councillors and members of the NPSG to a workshop next Thursday, to "see and discuss the LAA (Land Availability Assessment) sites relevant to 'our' parish which have been submitted as part of the Call for Sites undertaken earlier this year. Officers will provide an update on the local plan and explain where we are in the process in assessing sites". RCNPSG members will be attending – as indeed will RCPC members.

David Holt
Chairman RCNPSG