



# Rowlands Castle Neighbourhood Plan

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Rowlands Castle Parish Council Meeting Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019

## Report of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Since the last Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group report to the Parish Council, the NPSG has continued to meet monthly, and to engage with EHDC over production of its new Local Plan. The NPSG Chairman attended a Hampshire Rural Affordable Housing Conference on 4 July, and together with Parish Councillors (including the two NPSG members) attended a pre-public consultation event with EHDC on 2 September to view ten options for major housing development sites for possible inclusion of two of them in the EHDC Local Plan. One of these possible sites would be an extension to the approved Land East of Horndean development, and would lie within the Rowlands Castle Parish boundary. Two public consultation events were held in Horndean on 7 and 23 September for this site, and the NPSG will monitor progress with these proposals as well as other aspects of the draft plan. The South Downs National Park Local Plan was adopted in July, while the adoption date for the EHDC LP is now expected to be June 2021.

The NPSG has continued to make good progress in preparing the draft Neighbourhood Plan over recent months and now has initial drafts of eleven policies for the Plan. Content has drawn on the responses to the "Housing Needs" survey questionnaires returned from the Parish at the end of last year, and other inputs. As previously reported, many responders did not wish to see significant new development in Rowlands Castle in the near future, particularly because of current building developments, and because of traffic and parking issues. Requirements for those in larger houses to downsize were identified. Further comment has now been invited on any particular future needs, from organisations in the Parish. The next step is to engage a consultant to review the draft, and advise on content.

The Group, which currently has one vacancy for membership, is due to meet again on 20 November to consider further needs for consultation and evidence gathering, and to progress development of the RCNP.

The Steering Group remains focused on producing a Rowland Castle Parish Neighbourhood Plan in accordance with the agreed RCNP **Vision: "To conserve and enhance the parish of Rowlands Castle as an attractive community whilst maintaining its separate identity, character and distinctiveness"**.

Ian Young  
Chairman RCNPSG