



Rowlands Castle Neighbourhood Plan

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Rowlands Castle Parish Council Meeting Monday 4th May 2020

Report of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Since the last Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group report to the Parish Council on 2 March 2020, the NPSG has continued to develop the draft Neighbourhood Plan (NP), meeting virtually via Zoom, as necessary.

Following the Council's approval at its 2 March meeting, John Slater Planning Ltd was appointed to review the draft NP, and this resulted in a very helpful first draft report review and clarification meeting with John Slater before the final report was received on 29 March. The NPSG was very satisfied with this most helpful report and John Slater submitted an invoice before the end of March for payment of the previously agreed fixed price total of £2,200 including VAT.

The NPSG met on 7 April to review the NP Review Report and agreed the way ahead and actions for further developing the NP content and policies. The Report confirmed that the draft policies were a good basis for producing a focussed, locally distinctive plan which is capable of passing examination, and advised the further development needed. This is now being progressed by the NPSG. John Slater also advised that consideration be given to producing a new Character Assessment document identifying character areas within the Parish. The NPSG agreed the need, and to investigate external support for this task which would incur further costs.

The Report also recommended the next steps for producing the NP, and recommended further consultations needed with residents, organisations and businesses to gather more evidence. While such consultations cannot go ahead through meetings under current restrictions, the NPSG is developing its approach so that consultations can be organised as soon as possible in the future. Another key recommendation in the Report was that in view of the NP content, it would be very low risk to proceed with, and is therefore not necessary to delay production and adoption of the NP until after adoption of the EHDC Local Plan. As adoption of the NP would attract a higher rate of CIL receipts (25% rather than 15%) for the Parish, **the NPSG has agreed and recommends that the NP be developed for adoption as soon as possible under current restrictions, continuing to monitor and take account of the development of the draft EHDC Local Plan as well as the already adopted SDNPA Local Plan.**

The NPSG is grateful to the Parish Council for approving the appointment of John Slater and for the support of Lisa Walker and Gill Whatley in making and managing the appointment. The NPSG would be very pleased to receive further advice and support through employment of John Slater at future stages of production of the NP.

Ian Young
Chairman RCNPSG