



# **Rowlands Castle Neighbourhood Plan**

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**Rowlands Castle Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

## **Report of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**

Since the last Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) report to the Parish Council (PC) on 1 February 2021, the NPSG has continued to meet regularly via Zoom to develop the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) draft policies, and to gather evidence for them.

The SG has also continued to consult organisations and businesses in the parish to obtain their inputs to the NP. Further virtual meetings have been held with Tennis Club and Castle United Youth Football Club representatives, and with HPD Estates, the Pharmacy, and the Veterinary Clinic. Further such meetings are being organised with other businesses and organisations to gain evidence for the content of NP policies. These meetings have confirmed previous comments and supported the content of the draft policies, as well as again raising issues not within the remit of the NP to address fully, or resolve. These again relate to the well-known issues of increasing traffic volume, and village car parking capacity. The Club representatives have raised aspirations for further enhancing facilities at the Recreation Ground.

A short online questionnaire consultation has recently gone live on Survey Monkey, with questions for all residents, younger people and businesses in the parish to obtain further evidence. This has been advertised through articles in the RCA Village and Valley magazine and in the Border Times newspaper as well as on Grapevine, and the PC website and Facebook page, to encourage as much participation as possible. There has been a good initial response.

The draft NP has been sent to EHDC and SDNPA, and a virtual meeting was held with their representatives last month. Comments have subsequently been received from EHDC, and are expected from SDNPA shortly. As a result, further consideration is being given to how best to designate the separation between RC village and Havant. Recent planning approval to proceed with the Havant Thicket Reservoir will assist with ensuring separation in that area. The designation to protect Local Green Spaces is also a topic under further consideration. Following EHDC advice, a Screening Assessment form is in preparation for submission to the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England to obtain advice on the need for Strategic Environmental and Habitats Regulations Assessments.

The NPSG continues to aim to hold a public consultation on the draft NP as soon as possible, subject to the current restrictions on meeting.

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

Ian Young  
Chairman RCNPSG