

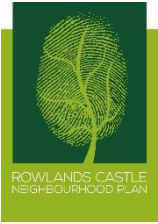
Rowlands Castle Neighbourhood Plan

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Rowlands Castle Parish Council Meeting Monday 7th February 2022

Report of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group



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

Further consultation meetings have been held face-to-face with The Castle Inn, Bumblebee Café, RC Golf Club, the Drs' Surgery, Travelodge Hotel, The George, Finchdean, The Workshop, Finchdean, and The Fountain Inn businesses, to obtain their inputs. A further one or two such meetings are being organised with other businesses, though this activity is now considered to be largely complete. These further meetings have again confirmed previous comments and supported the content of the draft policies, as well as raising issues not within the remit of the NP to address fully, or resolve. These continue to relate to the well-known issues of increasing traffic volume, and car parking capacity in the village, which has particular impact on businesses in the village centre.

The online survey questionnaire consultation completed in the latter part of last year on Survey Monkey for seven weeks, has provided further evidence for the draft NP.

The NP has been updated in response to comments received from SDNPA and EHDC, and consultant advice. A Screening Assessment form was submitted to the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England near the end of last year, to obtain advice on the need for Strategic Environmental and Habitats Regulations Assessments. A favourable response has been received from Natural England, other responses are awaited, and these will guide the NP programme in the coming months.

A small sub-group has met to prepare for a public consultation on the draft NP, known as the Regulation 14 stage, with the aim of carrying out this six-week consultation as soon as possible once other necessary activities have been completed. In advance, letters seeking comment are being sent to owners of specific land and properties mentioned in the NP.

SG members met with EHDC and SDNPA representatives on 2 February to update these authorities on progress, and to seek further advice.

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

Ian Young
Chairman RCNPSG