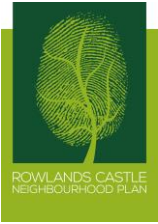


# Rowlands Castle Neighbourhood Plan

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Rowlands Castle Parish Council Meeting Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## Report of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group



Since the last Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) report to the Parish Council (PC) on 7 February, the NPSG has met again to develop the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) draft policies, and to prepare the future activities.

A further consultation meeting has been held with Wessex Food Brokers, to obtain their input. This particular consultation activity with local businesses is now considered to be largely complete.

Following submissions to the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England, all three have advised (subject to caveats) that there is no need for Strategic Environmental and Habitats Regulations Assessments for the RCNP. EHDC has been requested to produce screening statements to confirm this.

Letters have been sent to owners of specific land and properties mentioned in the draft Plan, and some responses have been received. It is possible that further responses might result in minor amendment to the draft NP.

A small sub-group has continued to prepare for a public consultation on the draft NP, known as the Regulation 14 stage, with the aim of carrying out this eight-week consultation as soon as possible once other necessary activities have been completed. A large amount of preparatory work will be needed for this consultation, and while the SG will seek further voluntary assistance, any further support that might be provided by the PC would be much appreciated.

The latest draft NP was sent to the PC last week, together with a short brief on the basis used and sources consulted for inputs to the Plan. The draft policies are based on evidence obtained by the SG. While no specific new housing is being proposed in the Plan, the SG has participated in discussions with EHDC on new housing sites within the Parish that are being considered for the emerging EHDC Local Plan. Any comments/queries that the PC might have on the content of the draft NP would be welcomed. Noting that as mentioned above, further minor amendments to this draft might still be necessary, the PC is requested to agree to the SG proceeding with preparations for holding the Regulation 14 Public Consultation as soon as possible, on this basis.

We continue to be very grateful for the ongoing sterling support of Gill Whatley in particular, and of Lisa Walker, which all continues to be vital in organising activities and in developing the NP.

Ian Young  
Chairman RCNPSG