Rowlands Castle Parish Council Meeting Monday 3rd April 2023

Report of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
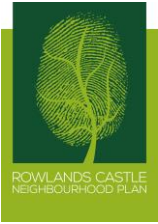
Since the last Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) report to the Parish Council (PC) on 6 March, the Regulation 16 Public Consultation on the Plan organised by East Hampshire District Council, and which started on 13 February, closed on 27 March.

Posters have been displayed in the Parish throughout this consultation, and further publicity has been given on the PC website, on Facebook, and via Grapevine messages, encouraging any comment on the content of the draft Plan during the consultation period. The Regulation 16 NP documentation remains available for consultation on the EHDC website, and the NP content remains available on the PC website.

EHDC recently proposed potential examiners provided by the Neighbourhood Plan Independent Examiners Referral Service (NPIERS) to undertake the Independent Examiner role for the RCNP. Information on these NPIERS examiners was provided to Parish Councillors on 16 March. The NPSG fully supported the recommendation of our consultant to appoint Mr Andrew Ashcroft, and this was agreed by Parish Councillors by email. It is understood that he is available to start the examination of the Plan without delay. **The Parish Council is requested to formally agree to the appointment of Mr Andrew Ashcroft as the Independent Examiner for the Rowlands Castle Neighbourhood Development Plan.**

As previously reported, the Examiner will review the draft NP documentation along with all comments received during Public Consultation, and produce a report which will be sent to EHDC and the Parish Council. EHDC will consider the report and decide on the next step, including whether the NP can proceed to a Referendum.

The continuing ongoing vital support of Gill Whatley in particular, and of Lisa Walker, is much appreciated.

Ian Young
Chairman RCNPSG