



# Rowlands Castle Neighbourhood Plan

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## Rowlands Castle Parish Council Meeting Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023

### Report of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Since the last Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) report to the Parish Council (PC) on 3 April, the appointment of Mr Andrew Ashcroft as the Independent Examiner (IE) for the Rowlands Castle Neighbourhood Development Plan (RCNP) has been confirmed by East Hampshire District Council (EHDC). The EHDC website has been updated to include all 13 responses received during the Regulation 16 Public Consultation held from 13 February to 27 March 2023, and these responses have been provided to the IE.

The IE has set out his approach to examining the RCNP. Mr Ashcroft visited the Parish independently on 17 April, and sent a Clarification Note via EHDC on 18 April asking for comments on specific points in the Plan with respect to some of the Regulation 16 responses received, by 15 May. The NPSG met on 19 April to review the Clarification Note and to agree actions necessary to complete the response.

A response has been compiled by the NPSG and agreed by the PC Chairman for it to be sent to EHDC today on behalf of the PC, for sending on to the IE.

The next step will be for the Examiner to decide whether a Public Hearing is required. The IE will produce the Examination Report progressively, taking account of the response to the Clarification Note, and any need for a Public Hearing. The Examiner will produce a fact-check report which he expects to send to the Parish Council and EHDC in late May/early June. This will give the PC and EHDC an opportunity to check the factual accuracy and/or omissions of the Report.

The NPSG has produced an Equality Impact Assessment Statement for the RCNP, drawing on the latest available census data for the Parish.

We continue to be very appreciative of the vital support of Gill Whatley in particular, and of Lisa Walker, in making this further progress with the Plan.

Ian Young  
Chairman RCNPSG