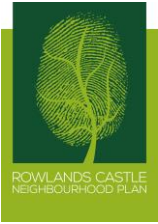


# Rowlands Castle Neighbourhood Plan

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Rowlands Castle Parish Council Meeting Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023

## Report of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group



Since the last Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) report to the Parish Council (PC) on 10 May, the Independent Examiner (IE) (Mr Andrew Ashcroft) proceeded with examination of the RC Neighbourhood Plan (RCNP), without the need for a Public Hearing. Mr Ashcroft's Fact Check Report on his examination of the Plan was received on 15 June, for checking of factual accuracy and any omissions only. This draft report was very positive in support of the RCNP and retained all of the Plan's policies, but modified the identified Strategic Gap between Rowlands Castle and Havant. The SG met on 20 June and our response to the Fact Check Report, identifying a very small number of points of accuracy, was sent to the IE via East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) on 23 June.

The IE's Final Report was received on 28 June, confirming the findings in the draft report. The Examiner concluded that subject to a series of recommended modifications set out in his report, the Plan meets all the necessary legal requirements and should proceed to referendum. The Final Report, together with previous Regulation 16 documentation, is available on the EHDC website.

The RCNP has been updated to include all of the IE's recommendations, and has been forwarded to EHDC. An EHDC Planning Committee meeting has been convened for earlier this evening, to consider approval of the IE's recommendations to proceed with holding a Referendum on the RCNP. The provisional Referendum date identified by EHDC is Tuesday 19 September 2023.

If approved to proceed, the Referendum will be organised by EHDC. Campaigning for support or otherwise of the NP in the Referendum is not permitted, but the SG has proposed publicising the Referendum through display of posters and delivery of a flyer to all households, as was done prior to the Regulation 14 Public Consultation. EHDC's agreement to the details of these arrangements is being sought. A simple majority will be needed in the Referendum for the Plan to be made (adopted) by EHDC and the South Downs National Park Authority. The Plan includes provision for future monitoring of its effectiveness, and review of its content.

We are again very appreciative of the vital support of Gill Whatley in particular, and of Lisa Walker, in reaching this stage with the Plan.

Ian Young  
Chairman RCNPSG