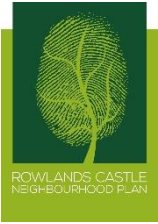


Rowlands Castle Neighbourhood Plan

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Rowlands Castle Parish Council Meeting Monday 4th September 2023

Report of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group



Since the last Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) report to the Parish Council (PC) on 17 July, and confirmation at that meeting that the East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) Planning Policy Committee had approved the recommendation to proceed with a Referendum for the Rowlands Castle Neighbourhood Plan (RCNP), EHDC has progressed arrangements for the Referendum to be held on Tuesday 19 September 2023. It will be held in the RC Parish Hall from 7am to 10pm, the Referendum question being:

“Do you want East Hampshire District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Rowlands Castle to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area.”

An NPSG meeting was held on 25 July. Arrangements for the Referendum will be similar to those for Local Elections, including those RC Parish residents eligible to vote, issuing of polling cards (from 30 August), use of photo ID by voters (application by 11 September if necessary), and application for postal (by 5pm on 4 September) and proxy (by 5pm on 11 September) votes. Postal voting packs are due to be sent out from 6 September.

All relevant documentation, including the Referendum version of the RCNP is available on the EHDC website (<https://www.easthants.gov.uk/elections/rowlands-castle-neighbourhood-plan-referendum>) and the RCPC website has been updated. Paper copies of the documents are available for viewing at the EHDC and RCPC offices.

The Referendum has been notified within the Parish by Grapevine messages, Facebook, the RCPC website, a banner displayed on the Railway Arches, and by posters being displayed throughout the Parish. Individual voters will be notified through issue of polling cards rather than by delivery of flyers.

Campaigning by Councillors and the NPSG for support or otherwise of the NP in the Referendum is not permitted, but all may encourage eligible Parish residents to vote in the Referendum by communicating factual information about arrangements for the Referendum. A simple majority will be needed 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 continue to be very appreciative of the vital support of Gill Whatley in particular, and of Lisa Walker, in moving to this stage of the Plan.

Ian Young
Chairman RCNPSG