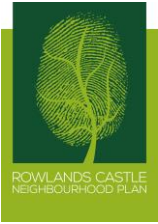


Rowlands Castle Neighbourhood Plan

11 The Green, Rowlands Castle, Hampshire PO9 6BW
Tel: 02392 413044 and Email: projects@rowlandscastlepc.org.uk

Rowlands Castle Parish Council Meeting Monday 2nd October 2023

Report of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group



Since the last Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) report to the Parish Council (PC) on 4 September, the Referendum for the Rowlands Castle Neighbourhood Plan (RCNP), was held on Tuesday 19 September 2023. The Referendum question was:

“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.”

The counting of votes following closing of the poll at 10pm was witnessed by Cllrs Frank Ball and Bill Wilson as well as myself. EHDC declared the result of the Referendum following the count as: YES 593 (96.5%), NO 22 (3.5%) with a turnout of 23.5%. This result has been posted on the EHDC website and also displayed on the Parish Council noticeboard.

An extraordinary meeting of the EHDC Planning Policy Committee held on 20 September voted unanimously to recommend adoption of the RCNP. At its Full Council meeting held on 28 September, EHDC unanimously voted to ‘make’ the RCNP. As a result, the Plan is now formally part of the EHDC Local Development Plan. The Referendum result will be submitted for South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) also to ‘make’ the RCNP to complete the final step in producing the Plan.

The NPSG is now due to meet on 14 November, and subject to confirmation of a positive endorsement from SDNPA, it is recommended that this be the last meeting of this group. It is also recommended that, on completion of production of the Plan, the current SG be disbanded. It is anticipated that the RCNP might need to be reviewed on completion of the emerging EHDC Local Plan (adoption currently forecast for 2026).

All relevant information on the RCNP remains available on the EHDC website (<https://www.easthants.gov.uk/elections/rowlands-castle-neighbourhood-plan-referendum>), on the SDNPA website and on the RCPC website.

We are yet again very appreciative of the crucial support of Gill Whatley in particular, and of Lisa Walker, in achieving a successful outcome in the Referendum.

Ian Young
Chairman RCNPSG