

**Horsham District Council Local Planning
Authority Billingshurst Neighbourhood
Development Plan 2031**

**The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as
amended) Regulation 19 and 20: Decision on a Plan Proposal
and Publicising a Neighbourhood Development Plan**

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), Horsham District Council has a statutory duty to support Parish Councils and Qualifying Bodies in the preparation of Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP's) and Orders and to take Neighbourhood Plans and Orders through a process of examination and referendum. The Localism Act 2011 (Part 6 chapter 3) sets out the Council's responsibilities under Neighbourhood Planning.

2.0 Background

2.1 The Neighbourhood Plan Area for Billingshurst covers the whole of the Parish of Billingshurst. The Parish was designated as a Neighbourhood Plan Area on the 30 December 2015 by Horsham Council.

2.2 The Neighbourhood Plan General Regulations 2015 require a Qualifying Body either to submit an environmental report prepare in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 or a statement of reasons why environmental report is not required. In order to comply with this requirement, HDC issued a 'standard screening' for all neighbourhood plans within the District. It comments that if a neighbourhood plan is allocating sites for development then it could have a significant environmental impact and a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) would be required. The BNP does not allocate sites. In this context, it has been confirmed a SEA is not required in this instance. In this wider context, the parish council commissioned a Sustainability Statement with the purpose to demonstrate the plan contributed to the achievement of sustainable development.

2.3 The Pre-Submission Billingshurst Neighbourhood Plan underwent consultation under Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, from 1 August 2019 to 29 September 2019. The Pre-Submission Plan was amended in response to the comments made during the consultation and the “Submission Plan” was then formally submitted to the District Council. The Council, in accordance with Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, undertook a further consultation of the Submission Plan. Representations were invited between 17 June 2020 and 12 August 2020.

2.4 Andrew Ashcroft was appointed by the Council with the consent of Billingshurst Parish Council, to undertake the examination of the submission Billingshurst Neighbourhood Plan and to prepare a report of the independent examination.

2.5 The Examiner’s Report was completed and sent to Horsham District Council on the 11 November 2020. The Examiner concluded that with a number of modifications the Submission Billingshurst Neighbourhood Plan would meet the Basic Conditions and could proceed to Referendum on that basis. Following agreement with the parish council it was agreed to take the plan forward to referendum.

2.6 On 6 May 2021, the Billingshurst Neighbourhood Development Plan to 2031 successfully passed Referendum with 87.83% of the votes cast agreeing that the Billingshurst Neighbourhood Development Plan be used by Horsham District Council to help in the determination of planning applications in the Parish of Billingshurst (turnout at the Referendum was 35.87%).

2.7 On 23 June 2021, Horsham District Council resolved at Full Council that Billingshurst Parish Neighbourhood Plan to 2031, (incorporating the Examiners modifications and all modifications as per the HDC Decision Statement), should be ‘made’ and become part of the Development Plan for Horsham District Council for the Parish of Billingshurst.

3.0 Conclusion

3.1 It is therefore confirmed, that the Billingshurst Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan to 2031, (incorporating Examiner’s modifications as set out in the Horsham District Council Decision Statement), complies with the legal requirements and basic conditions set out in the Localism Act 2011. As a result of the Council resolution of 23 June 2021 the Billingshurst Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan 2031 has been ‘made’ with effect 24 June 2021.

3.2 In accordance with Regulation 20 of the 2012 Regulations, the Billingshurst Parish

Neighbourhood Plan is available to view on the Council's website and on the Parish Council's website. In addition, hard copies are available upon request to view at the Horsham District Council Offices, Parkside, Chart Way, North Street, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1RL. Horsham District Council has also notified all persons who requested to be notified of the making of the plan and where it can be inspected.