

Crowhurst Neighbourhood Plan Decision Statement (Regulation 18, 2)

Summary

1. Following an independent examination undertaken by written representations, Rother District Council now confirms that the Crowhurst Neighbourhood Plan will proceed to a Neighbourhood Planning Referendum.
2. This decision statement is available on the [Crowhurst Neighbourhood Plan](#) page of the Rother District Council website and at the Bexhill Town Hall and Battle Community Help Points.

Background

3. On 24 November 2015, Rother District Council formally designated the area shown at Appendix 1 as the Crowhurst Neighbourhood Area.
4. Following the submission of the Crowhurst Neighbourhood Plan to Rother District Council the plan was publicised and representations were invited. The publicity period ran from 7 December 2018 to 25 January 2019.
5. The District Council appointed an independent Examiner, Ms Liz Beth BA(Hons), MA, Dip Design in the Built Environment, MRTPI to examine whether the Crowhurst Neighbourhood Plan met the basic conditions as set out in Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, and whether the Crowhurst Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to a referendum.
6. The Examiner's Report recommended a number of modifications so that the Crowhurst Neighbourhood Plan is able to comply with the 'basic conditions' and other relevant statutory provisions and that the submission plan if modified can be put to referendum.
7. The Examiner's Report of March 2019 (received 4 April 2019) concludes by stating:
"The Parish Council and Steering Group have undertaken extensive consultation on this Plan, and it complies with legislative requirements. The Plan is well evidenced with a particularly useful 'Crowhurst Landscape Character, Sensitivity and Capacity Study' commissioned to inform policy and allocations. It sets out policies that are directly relevant to the strategic policy of the development plan and the location of much of the neighbourhood area within the High Weald AONB. The Rother Local Plan Core Strategy 2014 provides a comprehensive and strategic policy framework.

I have considered the comments made at the Regulation 16 Publicity Stage, and where relevant these have to an extent informed some of the recommended modifications.

Subject to the modifications recommended, the Plan meets the basic conditions and may proceed to referendum.

I recommend the referendum boundary is the designated neighbourhood plan area.”

Recommendations, Decisions and Reasons

8. The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, Regulation 18 requires the local planning authority to outline what action to take in response to the recommendations of an examiner made in a report under paragraph 10 of Schedule 4a to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as applied by Section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004).
9. Having considered the recommendations made by the Examiner’s report, and the reasons for them, Rother District Council in conjunction with Crowhurst Parish Council (the Qualifying Body) has agreed to accept the modifications made to the draft plan under paragraph 12(6) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 in response to the Examiner’s recommendations/ modifications.
10. To meet the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 a referendum which poses the question, ‘Do you want Rother District Council to use the Crowhurst Neighbourhood Plan to help it decide planning applications in the Crowhurst Neighbourhood Area?’ will be held in the area formally designated as the Crowhurst Neighbourhood Area.
11. The date on which the referendum will take place is Thursday 27 June 2019.

17 May 2019