

Ongar Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

Regulation 18 Decision Statement

Summary

Following an Independent Examination Epping Forest District Council confirms formal acceptance of the recommendations outlined in the Ongar Neighbourhood Plan Examination Report. The Examiner recommended that the Ongar Neighbourhood Plan (hereafter, the Plan) should proceed to referendum as, subject to recommendations made by the Examiner, the plan meets all of the basic conditions required of a Neighbourhood Plan. This matter was considered at the Epping Forest District Council Cabinet Meeting held on 18 July 2022 where the Cabinet agreed that, the plan proposal be accepted and should therefore proceed to referendum.

Background

Ongar Town Council, as the qualifying body successfully applied in 2017 for the whole Parish to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area, under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (2012), which came into force on 6 April 2012.

A draft neighbourhood plan was produced and consulted upon in January 2021. The revised plan was submitted and publicised between 11 November 2021 and 23 December 2021. All representations were sent to the independent examiner appointed to examine the plan which was undertaken under the written representations procedure. The Examiner's Report was published on 13 May 2022.

Recommendations, Decisions and Reasons

The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (Regulation 18) require the local planning authority to outline what action is to be taken in response to the recommendations of an examiner 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).

Having considered the recommendations made in the Examiner's Report, and the reasons for them, Epping Forest District Council 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. The Council also agreed that the plan proposal should proceed to referendum.

The report to Cabinet on 18 July 2022 can be viewed at:

<https://rds.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/documents/g11173/Public%20reports%20pack%2018th-Jul-2022%2019.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=10>

The Examiner's Report can be viewed at:

https://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Examiner_Report_Ongar_EFDC_Final.pdf

Local Referendum

To meet the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 a referendum which poses the question,

‘Do you want Epping Forest District Council to use the Ongar Neighbourhood Plan to help it decide planning applications in the Ongar Neighbourhood Area?’

will be held in the area formally designated as the Ongar Neighbourhood Area.

The date on which the referendum will take place is 8 September 2022.