

Lamberhurst Neighbourhood Development Plan Decision Statement (Reg 18(2)¹)

Summary

1. Following an independent examination undertaken by written representations, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC) now confirms that the Lamberhurst Neighbourhood Development Plan (LNDP) will proceed to a Neighbourhood Planning Referendum.
2. This decision statement is available on the LNDP page of the TWBC website <https://tunbridgewells.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/neighbourhood-plans/lamberhurst> and will be displayed either at the Town Hall or The Gateway. A copy will also be sent to Lamberhurst Parish Council for display within the parish.

Background

3. On 29 December 2017, TWBC formally designated the area shown at Appendix 1 as the Lamberhurst Neighbourhood Area.
4. Following the submission of the LNDP to TWBC, the plan was publicised and representations were invited. The publicity period ran from 30th October to 11th December 2020.
5. The Borough Council appointed an independent Examiner, Mr John Slater BA (Hons), DMS, MRTPI to examine whether the LNDP met the basic conditions as set out in Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, and whether the LNDP should proceed to a referendum.
6. The Examiner's Report recommended a number of modifications so that the LNDP 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 (7th May 2021) prefaces the overview of the LNDP by stating: *I must start by congratulating the Steering Group and the Parish Council on reaching this important stage in the preparation of the neighbourhood plan for Lamberhurst parish. This is a plan that clearly reflects the character of Lamberhurst village and the parish's other settlements which are set in the beautiful High Weald countryside. The plan sets out a vision for the parish and addresses issues that are clearly of importance to the community.*

¹ The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

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, TWBC in conjunction with Lamberhurst 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 Tunbridge Wells Borough Council to use the Lamberhurst Neighbourhood Development Plan to help it decide planning applications in the Lamberhurst Neighbourhood Area?' will be held in the area formally designated as the Lamberhurst Neighbourhood Area.
11. The date on which the referendum will take place is Thursday 16 September 2021.

29th July 2021 (*date of Cabinet meeting*)

Appendix 1: Lamberhurst Neighbourhood Area

