

## APPENDIX C: Goudhurst Neighbourhood Development Plan Decision Statement (Reg 18(2)<sup>1</sup>)

<sup>1</sup> The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

### Summary

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

### Background

3. On 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016, TWBC formally designated the area shown at **Appendix 1** as the Goudhurst Neighbourhood Area.
4. Following the submission of the GNDP to TWBC, the plan was publicised, and representations were invited. The publicity period ran from 11<sup>th</sup> January to 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021.
5. The Borough Council appointed an independent Examiner, Mr Andrew Ashcroft BA (Hons), MA, DMS, MRTPI to examine whether the GNDP met the basic conditions as set out in Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, and whether the GNDP should proceed to a referendum.
6. The Examiner's Report recommended a number of modifications so that the GNDP 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 Executive Summary of the Examiner's Report (2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021) states: *"The Plan proposes a series of policies and seeks to bring forward positive and sustainable development in the neighbourhood area. There is a very clear focus on safeguarding its distinctive rural character. It includes a series of environmental and community policies, and designates a series of local green spaces. The Plan has been underpinned by community support and engagement. The community has been engaged in its preparation in a proportionate way. Subject to a series of recommended modifications set out in this report I have concluded that the Goudhurst Neighbourhood Development Plan meets all the necessary legal requirements and should proceed to referendum"*.

## **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 Goudhurst 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 Goudhurst Neighbourhood Development Plan to help it decide planning applications in the Goudhurst Neighbourhood Area?*' will be held in the area formally designated as the Goudhurst Neighbourhood Area.
11. The date on which the referendum will take place is Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022.

**2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021**



# Appendix 1: Goudhurst Neighbourhood Area

