

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

1 The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

Summary

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

Background

3. On 24 November 2017, TWBC formally designated the area shown at **Appendix 1** as the Horsmonden Neighbourhood Area.
4. Following the submission of the HNDP to TWBC, the plan was publicised, and representations were invited. The publicity period ran from 4 July to 29 August 2022.
5. The Borough Council appointed an independent Examiner, Mr John Slater BA(Hons), DMS, MRTPI to examine whether the HNDP met the basic conditions as set out in Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, and whether the HNDP should proceed to a referendum.
6. The Examiner's Report recommended a number of modifications so that the HNDP 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 (28 November 2022) concludes that 'I can confirm that my overall conclusions are that the Plan, if amended in line with my recommendations, meets all the statutory requirements including the basic conditions test and that it is appropriate, if successful at referendum, that the Plan, as amended, be made'.
8. An additional modification requested by the Parish Council and supported by the independent examiner is for Policy 4.4 New Village Hall that will read in the referendum version of the HNDP '*Development proposals for a new village hall will be supported provided it is a walkable distance from the village centre and has adequate safe pedestrian access*'.

Appendix 1: Horsmonden Parish Boundary

Recommendations, Decisions and Reasons

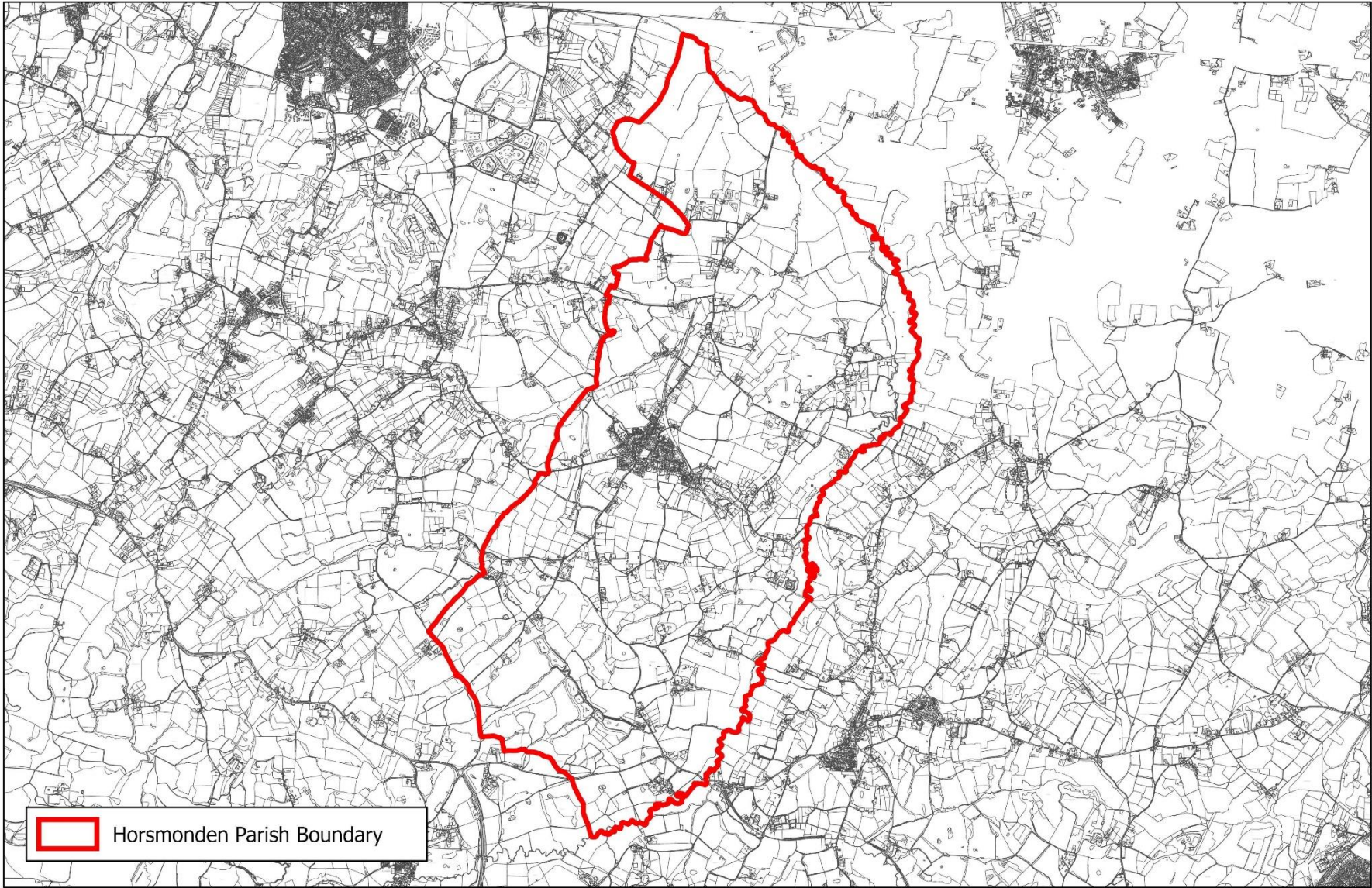
9. The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, Regulation 18 requires the local planning authority to outline what action to take in response to the recommendations of an examiner made in a report under paragraph 10 of Schedule 4a to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as applied by Section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004).
10. Having considered the recommendations made by the Examiner's report, and the reasons for them, TWBC in conjunction with Horsmonden 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, and to amend Policy 4.4 of the HNBP as per para 8 above.
11. 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 Horsmonden Neighbourhood Development Plan to help it decide planning applications in the Horsmonden Neighbourhood Area?*' will be held in the area formally designated as the Horsmonden Neighbourhood Area, that is Horsmonden Parish, to ensure the community has the final say on whether the neighbourhood plan comes into force or not.
12. The date on which the referendum will take place is Thursday 8 June 2023.

23 March 2023

Appendix 1: Horsmonden Parish Boundary



HORSMONDEN PARISH BOUNDARY



Scale 1:50,000

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Map Dated: 15/12/2022

