

# Cranbrook & Sissinghurst 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 Cranbrook & Sissinghurst Neighbourhood Development Plan (CSNDP) will proceed to a Neighbourhood Planning Referendum.
2. This decision statement is available on the CSNDP page of the TWBC website <https://tunbridgewells.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/neighbourhood-plans/cranbrook-and-sissinghurst> and will be displayed either at the Town Hall or The Amelia. A copy will also be sent to Cranbrook & Sissinghurst Parish Council for display within the parish.

## Background

3. In July 2016, TWBC formally designated the area shown at **Appendix 1** as the Cranbrook & Sissinghurst Neighbourhood Area.
4. Following the submission of the CSNDP to TWBC, the plan was publicised, and representations were invited. The publicity period ran from 12 September to 24 October 2022.
5. The Borough Council appointed an independent Examiner, Mr Andrew Ashcroft BA (Hons), DMS, MRTPI to examine whether the CSNDP met the basic conditions as set out in Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, and whether the CSNDP should proceed to a referendum.
6. The Examiner's Report recommended a number of modifications so that the CSNDP 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 (25th May 2023) concludes that the CSNDP '*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. In addition, the Plan proposes the designation of a series of local green spaces*'.

## 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 Cranbrook & Sissinghurst 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 CSNDP as per para 8 above.
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 Cranbrook & Sissinghurst Neighbourhood Development Plan to help it decide planning applications in the Cranbrook & Sissinghurst Neighbourhood Area?'* will be held in the area formally designated as the Cranbrook & Sissinghurst Neighbourhood Area, that is Cranbrook & Sissinghurst Parish, to ensure the community has the final say on whether the neighbourhood plan comes into force or not.
11. The date on which the referendum will take place is 14th September 2023.

**27 July 2023**

# Appendix 1: Cranbrook and Sissinghurst Parish Boundary

