

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

## Background

3. In February 2014, TWBC formally designated the area shown at **Appendix 1** as Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Area.
4. Following the submission of the PWNDP to TWBC, the plan was publicised, and representations were invited. The publicity period ran from 12 September 2022 to 24 October 2022.
5. The Borough Council appointed an independent Examiner, Mr Andrew Ashcroft BA (Hons), DMS, MRTPI to examine whether the PWNDP met the basic conditions as set out in Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, and whether the PWNDP should proceed to a referendum.
6. The Examiner's Report dated 16 March 2023 concludes that the PWNDP meets the basic conditions for the preparation of a neighbourhood plan subject to a series of recommended modifications and subject to the incorporation of the modifications set out in this report (i.e. the Examiner's Report) that the PWNDP should proceed to referendum.

## Recommendations, Decisions and Reasons

7. 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).
8. Having considered the recommendations made by the Examiner's report, and the reasons for them, TWBC in conjunction with Paddock Wood Town 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 PWNDP as per para 8 above.

9. 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 Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Development Plan to help it decide planning applications in the Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Area?*' will be held in the area formally designated as the Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Area, that is the area covered by Paddock Wood Town Council, to ensure the community has the final say on whether the neighbourhood plan comes into force or not.
10. The date on which the referendum will take place is 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

**27 July 2023**

# Appendix 1: Paddock Wood Parish Boundary

