

# **Badwell Ash & Long Thurlow Neighbourhood Plan**

## **Post-Examination Decision Statement**



**Dated: 18 August 2025**

**Regulation 18 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended)**

### **Summary**

Regulation 18 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) requires the relevant local planning authority to decide what action to take in response each recommendation made by the Independent Examiner and to publish its decision. This Decision Statement fulfills that purpose.

The submission draft Badwell Ash & Long Thurlow Neighbourhood Plan 2024 - 2038 has been independently examined by Ann Skippers BSc (Hons) MRTPI FRSA FHEA AoU. Her final report dated 8 August 2025 praises the manner in which this Plan has been prepared and presented, with its innovative and distinctive local policies that add an appropriate level of detail for decision makers. Some modifications are proposed, but these are generally of a minor nature. Of note are: amendments to the supporting text of Policy BALT2 to clarify the settlement boundary position at Long Thurlow; an amendment to Policy BALT15 re energy performance testing of buildings, and the removal of three proposed Non-designated Heritage Assets and one Local Green Space from the Plan. The Report concludes by saying that subject to all of the necessary modifications being made, this Plan meets the basic conditions and other statutory requirements against which it was examined, and that it should proceed to a local referendum.

Having considered the examination report, it is the District Councils recommendation that:

Badwell Ash Parish Council should make all the necessary modifications to their Neighbourhood Plan in accordance with the recommendations set out in Independent Examiner's Report dated 8 August 2025 and, subject to satisfactory completion of that task (to be signed-off by the Head of Strategic Planning), this Plan will then be advanced to a local referendum covering the parish of Badwell Ash (the designated Neighbourhood Plan area).

### **Background**

The Badwell Ash & Long Thurlow Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in accordance with the relevant regulations. The key stages are set out below:

- In September 2022, designation of the whole parish as a Neighbourhood Plan Area, which enabled the Parish Council (the 'qualifying body') to prepare its Plan



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**Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils**  
Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 2BX  
Telephone: (0300) 1234 000  
[www.babergh.gov.uk](http://www.babergh.gov.uk) / [www.midsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk)

- Publication by the Parish Council of their Regulation 14 Pre-submission draft Plan for consultation between 27 September and 8 November 2024
- In February 2025, submission of the draft Plan to Mid Suffolk District Council, which was then made available for public consultation between 10 March and 25 April 2025
- Commencing in late May 2025, independent examination of the Plan. The final Examination Report was issued on 8 August 2025

The 'Basic Conditions' are set out in Paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). In order to satisfy them a Plan must:

- have regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State,
- contribute to the achievement of sustainable development,
- be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the Development Plan for the area of the authority, *and*
- not breach and be otherwise compatible with EU obligations and human rights requirements.

Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) also prescribes the following basic condition:

- The making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017(7).

The pre-submission draft Badwell Ash & Long Thurlow Neighbourhood Plan was subject to independent screening. This concluded that an Appropriate Assessment was not required. After consulting the relevant statutory bodies on the screening outcome, the Council issued its formal Determination Notice in December 2024.

## **Decision**

The Badwell Ash & Long Thurlow Neighbourhood Plan as modified to incorporate all the modifications set out in the Independent Examiners Report dated 8 August 2025 complies with the Basic Conditions as set out in Paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) and should proceed to a local referendum.

The date of the referendum will be announced separately.

A 'Referendum Version' of the Neighbourhood Plan, i.e., the version incorporating all the required modifications, will be published either on the day that the referendum is announced, or sooner if it is practical to do so.

## **References:**

1. Independent Examiners Report on the Badwell Ash & Long Thurlow NP:  
<https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/documents/d/mid-suffolk/badwell-ash-np-exam-report>
2. The Examination Correspondence document:  
<https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/documents/d/mid-suffolk/badwell-ash-np-exam-correspondence>