

# Baylham Neighbourhood Plan 2024 - 2037

## Post-Examination Decision Statement



**Dated: 12 June 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 Baylham Neighbourhood Plan 2024 - 2037 has been independently examined by Janet Cheesley BA (Hons) DipTP MRTPI. Her final report dated 22 May 2025 notes that this Plan has a clear vision supported by ten objectives, that it does not allocate sites for development, but that it does set out criteria-based policy requirements and that it seeks to, amongst other things, focus development to come forward within a newly defined settlement boundary. Following consultation, the report also recommends that four of the five proposed Local Green Spaces be removed from the Plan because they were not found to have met the necessary criteria for designation. Other modifications are also recommended, predominantly in the interests of providing clarity and precision for decision makers.

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

Baylham 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 22 May 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 Baylham (the designated Neighbourhood Plan area).

### Background

The Baylham Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in accordance with the relevant regulations. The key stages are set out below:

- In May 2023, designation of the whole parish as a Neighbourhood Plan Area, which enabled the Parish Council (the 'qualifying body') to prepare its Plan
- Publication by the Parish Council of their Regulation 14 Pre-submission draft Plan for consultation between 6 September and 21 October 2024



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- In January 2025, submission of the draft Plan to Mid Suffolk District Council, which was then made available for public consultation between 10 February and 28 March 2025
- Commencing in April 2025, independent examination of the Plan. The final Examination Report was issued on 22 May 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 Baylham 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 November 2024.

## **Decision**

The Baylham Neighbourhood Plan as modified to incorporate all the modifications set out in the Independent Examiners Report dated 22 May 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 Baylham NP:  
<https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/documents/d/mid-suffolk/baylham-np-exam-report>
2. Baylham NP Examination Correspondence document:  
<https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/documents/d/mid-suffolk/baylham-np-exam-correspondence>