

Wetheringsett cum Brockford Neighbourhood Plan

Post-Examination Decision Statement



Dated: 16 July 2024

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 of the recommendations made by the Independent Examiner and to publish the decision on its website. This Decision Statement fulfills that purpose.

The 2024 submission draft version of the 'Wetheringsett cum Brockford Neighbourhood Plan 2022 - 2037' has been independently examined by Janet Cheesley BA (Hons) DipTP MRTPI. In summary, her report sets out that subject to certain modifications, this plan will provide a strong practical framework against which decisions on development in the parish can be made. The modifications, which are made predominantly in the interest of precision, include a reference to maintaining and not eroding the important gaps both within and between the distinct hamlets, and adjustments to the proposed settlement boundary. The Report also concludes that, subject to all modifications being made, this Plan meets the Basic Conditions and that it should proceed to a local referendum. The Examiner also agreed that the referendum area should be the same as the Plan area.

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

'Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council should make all the necessary modifications to their Neighbourhood Plan in accordance with the Independent Examiner's Report and, subject to the satisfactory completion of that task, this Plan will be advanced to a local referendum covering the parish of Wetheringsett cum Brockford.'

Background

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

- In July 2021, 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 an amended Regulation 14 Pre-submission draft Plan for consultation between 16 October and 30 November 2023
- In February 2024, re-submission of their draft Plan to Mid Suffolk District Council, which was then made available for public consultation between 18 March and 3 May 2024



- Re-commencing in May 2024, independent examination of the Plan. The final Examination Report was issued on 8 July 2024

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 second pre-submission draft Wetheringsett cum Brockford 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 January 2024.

Decision

The Wetheringsett cum Brockford Neighbourhood Development Plan as modified to incorporate all the modifications set out in the Independent Examiners Report dated 8 July 2024 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 Wetheringsett cum Brockford NP:
<https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/documents/d/mid-suffolk/wetheringsett-np-exam-report-jul24>
2. Wetheringsett cum Brockford NP Examination Correspondence:
<https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/documents/d/mid-suffolk/wetheringsett-np-exam-correspondence-2024>