

**Horsham District Council Local Planning
Authority Slinfold Neighbourhood
Development Plan 2031**

The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) Regulation 19 and 20: Decision on a Plan Proposal and Publicising a Neighbourhood Development Plan

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), Horsham District Council has a statutory duty to support Parish Councils and Qualifying Bodies in the preparation of Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP's) and Orders and to take Neighbourhood Plans and Orders through a process of examination and referendum. The Localism Act 2011 (Part 6 chapter 3) sets out the Council's responsibilities under Neighbourhood Planning.

2.0 Background

2.1 The Neighbourhood Plan Area for Slinfold covers the whole of the Parish of Slinfold. The Parish was designated as a Neighbourhood Plan Area on the 20 May 2014 by Horsham Council.

2.2 The Pre-Submission Slinfold Neighbourhood Plan underwent consultation under Regulation 14 from 25 April 2016 to 6 June 2016. Slinfold Parish Council then submitted the draft Slinfold Neighbourhood Plan to the Council. In accordance with Regulation 16 the submission version of the Slinfold Parish Neighbourhood Plan to 2031 was publicised for consultation between 9 June and 21 July 2017. Following further communication with the Parish the Submission Plan went out to re-consultation again on 11 September 2017 to 23 October 2017 in order to be procedurally compliant with the Neighbourhood Plan Regulations.

2.3 Andrew Mead was appointed by the Council with the consent of Slinfold Parish Council, to undertake the examination of the submission Slinfold Neighbourhood Plan and to prepare a report of the independent examination.

- 2.4** The Examiner's Report was completed and sent to Horsham District Council on the 29 January 2018. The Examiner concluded that with a number of modifications the Submission Slinfold Neighbourhood Plan would meet the Basic Conditions and could proceed to Referendum on that basis.
- 2.5** The Council, as the Local Planning Authority, is responsible for deciding what action to take in response to recommendations made in the Examiner's report. Regulation 17A of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) states that where the Council disagrees with the Examiner's Report it can make alternative modifications, which must be subject to re-consultation and if required, further examination.
- 2.6** After considering the Examiner's recommendations the Council, with the agreement of the Parish Council, decided to put forward a number of further modifications. The decision statement was published on the 5 March 2018, and informed stakeholders and the wider public of modifications proposed by the Council. This included the reintroduction of policy criterion for each of the allocations specifically in relation to guiding scale, form and character, and ascribing a quantum of development to the allocated sites.
- 2.7** The further modifications proposed by Horsham District Council were published in accordance with paragraph 13a of Schedule 4B of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act, going out to consultation for a period of 7 weeks starting on the 16 March 2018 and concluding on the 4 May 2018. Over 70 representations were received in response to the proposed modifications.
- 2.8** During and following the consultation period, Horsham District Council took the opportunity to update the Sustainability Appraisal, incorporated into the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in light of the new evidence submitted during the consultation and to test the options that were proposed by the Examiner. This enabled the Council to ensure that the final decision considered a range of sustainability impacts and was able to demonstrate that the plan continued to meet the basic conditions. The Council concluded that the SEA met the necessary regulatory requirements.
- 2.9** Following the close of consultation, it was considered in light of the comments received, that the allocation of sites without a specific housing target would best achieve the aims of sustainable development in accordance with national and local planning policies. It was considered that the site-specific criteria supporting each allocation should remain. On the 8 June 2018, Horsham District Council therefore resolved that the Slinfold Submission Plan (incorporating the further modifications, the Examiner's modifications

and recommendations as set out in the Horsham District Council '[Decision Statement 8 June 2018](#)') should proceed to Referendum.

2.10 On 19 July 2018, the Slinfold Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan to 2031 successfully passed referendum with 32% turnout seeing 83% of the votes cast agreeing that the Slinfold Neighbourhood Plan to 2031 be used by Horsham District Council for the determination of planning applications in the Parish of Slinfold.

2.11 On 5 September 2018, Horsham District Council resolved at Full Council that Slinfold Parish Neighbourhood Plan to 2031, (incorporating the Examiners modifications and all modifications as per the HDC Decision Statement), should be 'made' and become part of the Development Plan for Horsham District Council for the Parish of Slinfold.

3.0 Conclusion

3.1 It is therefore confirmed, that the Slinfold Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan to 2031, (incorporating Examiner's modifications as set out in the Horsham District Council Decision Statement), complies with the legal requirements and basic conditions set out in the Localism Act 2011. As a result of the Council resolution of 5 September 2018 the Slinfold Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan 2031 has been 'made' with effect 6 September 2018.

3.2 In accordance with Regulation 20 of the 2012 Regulations, the Slinfold Parish Neighbourhood Plan is available to view on the Council's website and on the Parish Council's website. In addition, hard copies are available upon request to view at the Horsham District Council Offices, Parkside, Chart Way, North Street, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1RL. Horsham District Council has also notified all persons who requested to be notified of the making of the plan and where it can be inspected.