

**Horsham District Council Local Planning
Authority Cowfold 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 Cowfold covers the whole of the Parish of Cowfold. The Parish was designated as a Neighbourhood Plan Area on the 16 May 2018 by Horsham Council.
- 2.2** The Pre-Submission Cowfold Neighbourhood Plan underwent consultation under Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, from 9 August and 14 October 2019 and again to rectify an administrative error from 12 November to 24 December 2019. The Pre-Submission Plan was amended in response to the comments made during the consultation and the "Submission Plan" was then formally submitted to the District Council. The Council, in accordance with Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, undertook a further consultation of the Submission Plan. Representations were invited between 23 March to 25 May 2020 and again to address issues relating to the historic environment a further consultation was held between 17 December to 11 February 2021.

- 2.3** Andrew Ashcroft was appointed by the Council with the consent of Cowfold Parish Council, to undertake the examination of the submission Cowfold 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 19 April 2021. The Examiner concluded that with a number of modifications the Submission Cowfold Neighbourhood Plan would meet the Basic Conditions and could proceed to Referendum on that basis. Following agreement with the parish council it was agreed to take the plan forward to referendum.
- 2.5** On 14 September 2021, Horsham District (together with a number of other local planning authorities in northwest Sussex) received a Position Statement from Natural England on water neutrality. This set out that water abstraction for drinking water supplies was having a negative impact on the wildlife sites in the Arun Valley. This has led to a significant delay in the Cowfold Neighbourhood Plan proceeding to referendum and has required further work, which has been subject to consultation, and additional modifications made to ensure the plan either alone or in combination with other plans or projects and is therefore compliant with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Following amendments made to the Cowfold Neighbourhood Plan, the plan was progressed to Referendum and was scheduled to be held on the 4 September 2025.
- 2.6** On 4 September 2025, the Cowfold Neighbourhood Development Plan to 2031 successfully passed Referendum with 90.56% of the votes cast agreeing that the Cowfold Neighbourhood Development Plan be used by Horsham District Council to help in the determination of planning applications in the Parish of Cowfold (turnout at the Referendum was 29.72%).
- 2.7** On 8 October 2025, Horsham District Council resolved at Cabinet that the Cowfold 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 Cowfold.

3.0 Conclusion

3.1 It is therefore confirmed that the Cowfold 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 8 October 2025 the Cowfold Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan 2031 has been 'made' with effect 8 October 2025.

3.2 In accordance with Regulation 20 of the 2012 Regulations, the Cowfold 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, Alberty House, Springfield Road, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 2GB. 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.