

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan

Decision Statement

Published pursuant to the Localism Act 2011 Schedule 38A(9) and Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

1. Summary

In accordance with the above regulations, and following a positive referendum result, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) made the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan (2011-2029) on 27 May 2021. The Neighbourhood Plan now forms part of the statutory Development Plan for Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

2. Background

On 26 February 2018, BDBC designated the Burghclere Neighbourhood Area for the purpose of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. The plan area covers the parish of Burghclere and lies solely within the Basingstoke and Deane Local Planning Authority Area. Burghclere Parish Council, the qualifying body, submitted the draft Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents to BDBC in November 2019.

Following submission of the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan, BDBC publicised the Plan and supporting documents and invited representations during the consultation period which ran from 6 December 2019 to 24 January 2020. BDBC, with the consent of Burghclere Parish Council, appointed an independent examiner, Ms Janet Cheesley, to review the Plan and consider whether it should proceed to referendum.

The Examiner's Report was received in March 2020 and recommended that, subject to a number of proposed modifications, the Plan should proceed to referendum. The modifications are required to ensure that the Plan meets the basic conditions set out in the legislation (Para 8(2) Schedule 4B Town and Country Planning Act 1990). The examiner also recommended that the area for the referendum be based on the designated neighbourhood area which the Plan relates to.

3. Decision and Reasons for the Decision

Paragraph 38A(4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the Council to make the Neighbourhood Plan if more than half of those voting in a

referendum have voted in favour of the Plan being used to help to decide planning applications in the area.

Ordinarily the referendum would be held within 56 days of the decision to proceed to referendum. However, due to the situation relating to COVID-19 at the time, a moratorium on election events, including Neighbourhood Plan referendums, was in place. As a result, the referendum on the plan had to be postponed until 6 May 2021, in line with the Local Government and Police and Crime Commissioner (Coronavirus) (Postponement of Elections and Referendums) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020

A local referendum was held in Burghclere on 6 May 2021 to decide whether the local community was in favour of the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan. From the votes recorded, 366 out of 447 (82%) of those who voted were in favour of the plan. The turnout of electors was 46.5%.

The Council has also assessed and concluded that the plan, including its preparation, does not breach, and would not otherwise be incompatible with, any EU obligation or any of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998). As such, the council decided the following, at the Full Council meeting on the 27 May 2021 to:

‘make the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan with immediate effect, with the consequence that it becomes part of the statutory development plan for the area.’

This decision statement can be viewed on the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council website at: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/BURNP>

Hard copies of the Neighbourhood Plan are available for inspection or purchase from the Council’s Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 4AH (weekdays 8.30 to 5.00, Monday to Thursday, and 4.30 pm Fridays. Hard copies are also available to view at the Basingstoke Discovery Centre and Newbury Library during their normal opening times. Please note that these times may be liable to change or be subject to view by appointment only due to COVID-19 restrictions and these should be checked with the venue prior to arriving.

Further information can be obtained from the Planning Policy Team on 01256 845175 or local.plan@basingstoke.gov.uk