

Botesdale & Rickinghall Neighbourhood Plan



Decision Statement

Mid Suffolk District Council's Cabinet committee resolved at its meeting on 7 October 2019 that the Botesdale & Rickinghall Neighbourhood Development Plan should proceed to a local referendum.

The local referendum will be held on **Thursday 28 November 2019**

Background

The Botesdale & Rickinghall Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended). The key stages are set out below:

- In May 2017, designation of the Neighbourhood Plan Area by the District Council which enabled the Parish Council, as the 'qualifying body', to prepare its Plan.
- In November 2018, publication of the Regulation 14 Pre-submission draft Neighbourhood Plan for a minimum six-week public consultation period.
- In January 2019, formal submission of the Plan to the District Council, which was checked for compliance with the relevant legal requirements prior to a public consultation period that ran from 11 February to 27 March 2019.
- In Spring 2019, independent examination of the Plan by Ann Skippers MRTPI FRSA AoU.
- On 15 August 2019, publication of the Examiner's Report which concluded that ... subject to modification, the Botesdale & Rickinghall Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions and can go forward to a referendum.

The 'Basic Conditions' are set out in Paragraph 8(2), Schedule 4B the Town and Country Planning Act, 1990. In order to satisfy them a Plan must:

- have regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State;
- be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the Development Plan for the area;
- contribute to the achievement of sustainable development; 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 - *that the making of the neighbourhood plan should not have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.*

The Botesdale & Rickinghall Neighbourhood Plan was subject to an independent screening assessment. This concluded that the need to undertake a Habitats Regulation Assessment was 'screened-out' and therefore, the making of the Plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site. Following consultation with the statutory bodies, the Council issued a revised and updated Determination Notice in July 2019.

Decision

That, the Botesdale & Rickinghall Neighbourhood Development Plan as modified to incorporate the Examiner's Recommendations, complies with the 'Basic Conditions' as set out in Paragraph 8(2), Schedule 4B the Town and Country Planning Act, 1990 and should proceed to a local referendum.

Dated: Monday 21 October 2019