

**AYLESBURY VALE DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

QUAINTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN DECISION STATEMENT OCTOBER 2016

1. Summary

- 1.1 Following an Independent Examination and Referendum, Aylesbury Vale District Council now confirms that the Quainton Neighbourhood Plan (“the Plan”) forms part of the Development Plan and the policies in the Plan can therefore now be given full weight when assessing planning applications that affect land covered by the Plan.
- 1.2 This decision statement and the Plan can be viewed at:

Quainton Village Store

Church Street,
Quainton
HP22 4AP

Open Monday to Saturday 8:00am – 18:00pm

George & Dragon Tea Room

The Green,
Quainton
HP22 4AR

Open Tuesday to Saturday 9:00am – 17:30pm

Aylesbury Vale District Council Office

The Gateway,
Gatehouse Road
Aylesbury,
HP19 8FF

Open Monday to Thursday 8:45am-5:15pm; Friday 8:45am-4:45pm
(Closed Saturday and Sunday)

2. Background

- 2.1 In May 2012 Quainton Parish Council, as the relevant body, applied for Quainton Parish to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area for the purpose of preparing a neighbourhood plan. The Neighbourhood Area application was approved by Aylesbury Vale District Council (the Council) on 10 September 2012 in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.
- 2.2 Following the submission of the Plan to the Council in December 2015, the Plan was publicised and representations were invited. The consultation period closed on 9 February 2016
- 2.3 The Council, with the agreement of Quainton Parish Council, appointed an independent examiner, Mr Chris Collison, to review whether the Plan met the Basic Conditions required by legislation and should proceed to referendum.

2.4 The Examiner's Report concluded that, subject to making the modifications proposed by the Examiner, the Plan met the Basic Conditions set out in the legislation and should proceed to a Neighbourhood Planning referendum.

3. Decision and Reasons

3.1 On 25 April 2016 the Forward Plans Manager made the delegated decision for the Council to accept and act upon the Examiner's report and that the Quainton Neighbourhood Plan (as modified by the Examiner's Report) should proceed to referendum. The District Council made the modifications proposed by the Examiner to ensure that the draft plan met the Basic Conditions.

3.2 A referendum took place on Thursday 14 July 2016. The results showed 95% of those who voted were in favour of the plan.

3.3 On 18 July 2016 Walsingham Planning informed AVDC of potential grounds to challenge the neighbourhood plan should it proceed to the 'making' stage. Walsingham are promoting a site South of The Strand (both in representation to the submitted neighbourhood plan and as a planning application (15/03583/AOP) for 31 dwellings. Following receipt of its own legal advice, agreed not to make the plan until these issues had been looked into. The main ground to be considered was that the SEA screening was out of date. Taking further advice, AVDC recommended the carrying out of a new SEA Screening of the Referendum version of the neighbourhood plan to consider if any changes to the plan since the original screening opinion of July 2015 altered the first screening. A draft screening report was circulated on 22 September for 3 week consultation with statutory consultees and the responses received were appended to the final screening report published 25 October 2016. The screening outcome was that a sustainability appraisal was not required to support the plan. Therefore the grounds of the potential legal challenge did not need to delay making the neighbourhood plan.

3.4 On 31 October 2016 the Forward Plans Manager made the delegated decision, pursuant to section 38A(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, to 'make' the Quainton Neighbourhood Plan as more than half of those voting voted in favour of the Plan. This decision statement, the Plan and details of where they can both be inspected have been published on our website. This information has also been brought to the attention of people who live, work or carry out business in the neighbourhood area.