

DECISION STATEMENT

Staplehurst Neighbourhood Development Plan 2016-2031

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Under the Town and Country Planning Act (as amended), the Council has a statutory duty to assist communities in the preparation of neighbourhood development plans and orders and to take plans through a process of examination and referendum. The Localism Act 2011 (Part 6 chapter 3) sets out the Local Planning Authority's responsibilities under Neighbourhood Planning.
- 1.2 Following an independent Examination, and representations made by local residents and Maidstone Borough Council, the Examiner recommended that the Staplehurst Neighbourhood Development Plan proceed to referendum. This recommendation was reported to Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee on 13 September 2016 which approved the Staplehurst Neighbourhood Development Plan for referendum.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Staplehurst Neighbourhood Development Plan relates to an area that was designated as a neighbourhood area on 14th January 2013. This area is the same as the Parish Council area and lies within the boundary of Maidstone Borough Council.
- 2.2 The neighbourhood plan has been prepared by the Parish Council and Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and following its submission to the Council in September 2015, was publicised and representations invited. The consultation period finished on 4 December 2015.
- 2.3 Mr Derek Stebbing was appointed by Maidstone Borough Council, with the consent of the parish Council to undertake the Examination of the Staplehurst Neighbourhood Development Plan and to prepare a report. The report suggested a number of minor modifications and recommended that the Plan proceed to a referendum.

3.0 DECISION

- 3.1 The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 require the local planning authority to outline what action to take in response to the recommendation of the Examiner made in a report under paragraph 10 of Schedule 4A to the 1990 Act (as applied by Section 38A of the 2004 Act) in relation to a neighbourhood development plan.

3.2 Strategic Planning Sustainability and Transportation Committee considered the Examiner's report on 13th September 2016 and approved the recommendation for referendum.

4.0 CONCLUSION

4.1 Accordingly, I confirm that the Staplehurst Neighbourhood Development Plan complies with the legal requirements and basic conditions set out in the Localism Act 2011, and can proceed to referendum.

4.2 I declare that I have no personal or prejudicial interest in respect of this decision.

R. L. Jarman

Signed
Head of Planning and Development