

NDP Update November/December 2021

We are now getting to the final stages for the Compton Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) to be approved and adopted.

The independent examination of the NDP was carried out and the examiner, Andrew Mead, issued his final report to West Berkshire District Council on 7 October 2021. It recommended that, subject to some modifications, the plan should proceed to referendum.

The examiner commented that,

‘The Parish Council, Steering Group members, researchers and other volunteers are to be commended for their efforts in producing a comprehensive Plan which is very professionally presented with thorough accompanying documentation and in a format which is worthy of its role as part of the Development Plan. It is an extremely well structured and informative Plan which I enjoyed examining. The high quality of the Plan is demonstrated by the small number of recommended modifications (necessary to meet the Basic Conditions) to only eight of the twenty-three policies. With those modifications, the CNDP will make a positive contribution to the Development Plan for the area and should enable the rural character and appearance of Compton Parish to be maintained. ‘

The modifications, recommended by the examiner, were approved by the Compton Parish Council, and the NDP has been amended and submitted to WBDC.

West Berkshire District Council has published a copy of the examiner’s final report on their website: <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/comptonnp> .

The examiner's report on the Compton Neighbourhood Plan, is not binding and it is the responsibility of West Berkshire District Council to ultimately decide if the examiner’s recommendations should be followed or not. Officers of WBDC will now consider each of the recommendations in the examiner's report and produce a Decision Statement.

At the Full Council Meeting of WBDC, scheduled to take place on Thursday 2 December 2021 at 7pm, Councillors will be asked to endorse the Decision Statement. If the Decision Statement recommends that the Compton NDP can proceed to referendum, then Councillors will also be asked to agree that the plan can be adopted immediately upon a successful 'yes' vote at referendum.

We look forward to receiving the Decision Statement and the date for the referendum from WBDC. It is expected that the referendum will take place January 2022.