

Public Consultation Responses for delegated planning items



MAY 2020

Report to	Director of Planning
Report reference	Report PCI9/20-56
Date published	6 May 2020
By	Senior Planning Policy Officer
Title of Report	Half Year Update on the Progress of Neighbourhood Planning
Purpose of Report	To update Members of the progress of Neighbourhood Development Plans across the South Downs National Park

Recommendation:

The Director of Planning is recommended to note the progress to date on the preparation of Neighbourhood Development Plans across the National Park.

The following response was received by members of the public:

Name	Comments
David Hutchison B Arch PG Dip TP Lead (Findon Updated Neighbourhood Plan Working Group) 14/5/20	<p>Unfortunately the positive tone throughout the report from officers does not identify to members, particular new members, that the updated neighbourhood plan process at Findon has not delivered a successful outcome for the community and Findon Parish Council.</p> <p>The main intention of the updated NP was to give the community a proper say in the location of new housing at Findon to meet the housing provision in the pre submission version of SDLP. The 'early in the cycle' prepared FNP ('made' in 2016), did not allocate housing sites on the understanding that the SDNPA would fully consult with FPC on housing locations during preparation of the SDLP which would include a consensus on housing allocations for Findon.</p> <p>However this consultation did not happen, the SDNPA instead progressed confidential negotiations with selected land owners and agents, subsequently announcing the allocations to FPC, on a confidential basis, through parish workshops, only to then bring forward the allocations in the submission version of the SDLP, despite strong objections from FPC.</p> <p>This initiated the preparation of an updated NP with different housing site allocations.</p> <p>As the Examiner for the updated NP concluded there was neither sufficient reason to withdraw the allocations in what had then become</p>

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the adopted SDLP, nor did he consider that the different allocations in the updated NP were 'in conflict' with the SDLP allocations and could not therefore prevail over the SDLP allocations (as the provisions of the TCP Act and the NPPF if there is conflict), the report to members on the updated FNP is factually correct, but it is strongly nuanced and carefully avoids mention of the considerable disappointment and dissatisfaction of the community and FPC with the updated FNP experience and the negative approach taken by the SDNPA.

The report does not highlight:

- the unsuccessful outcome for Findon;
- that the SDNPA had the ability and authority to withdraw or change the allocations in both pre and post adoption versions of the SDLP (like South Oxfordshire DC did for Thame NP) if it had been minded to do so;
- that a properly arranged 'informal' referendum had been held in Findon during preparation of the updated NP, that the response rate was the same as that for the first referendum and that the two SDLP allocation sites were the least favoured, by a long way, of the seven sites included in that 'informal' referendum (housing site preferences survey 2017).

This representation requests fair and transparent reference to the challenges of updating a neighbourhood plan with different housing site allocations to those promoted by the local planning authority, in this case, the SDNPA, and the inclusion of an acknowledgement that government aspirations for neighbourhood planning cannot be demonstrated when the local planning authority is not minded to support the local community and parish councils in having a proper say on where new housing is allocated.