

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green Neighbourhood Plan

Decision Statement Published pursuant to the Localism Act 2011 Schedule 38A(9) and Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

1. Summary

In accordance with the above regulations, and following a positive examination result, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) made the Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green Neighbourhood Plan (2022-2039) on 18 May 2023. The Neighbourhood Plan now forms part of the statutory Development Plan for Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

2. Background

On 24 February 2021, BDBC designated the Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green Neighbourhood Area for the purpose of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. The plan area covers the parish of Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green and lies solely within the Basingstoke and Deane Local Planning Authority Area.

Following submission of the Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green Neighbourhood Plan, BDBC publicised the Plan and supporting documents and invited representations during the consultation period which ran from 7 November through to Monday 19 December 2022. BDBC, with the consent of Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green Parish Council, appointed an independent examiner, Ms Janet Cheesley, to review the Plan and consider whether it should proceed to be made.

The Examiner's Report was received on 6 February 2023 and recommended that, subject to a number of proposed modifications, the Plan should proceed to be made. The modifications were required to ensure that the Plan met the basic conditions set out in the legislation (Para 8(2) Schedule 4B Town and Country Planning Act 1990).

3. Decision and Reasons for the Decision

Paragraph 38A(4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the Council to make the Neighbourhood Plan if more than half of those voting in a

referendum have voted in favour of the Plan being used to help to decide planning applications in the area.

A local referendum was held in Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green on 4 May 2023 to decide whether the local community was in favour of the Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green Neighbourhood Plan. From the votes recorded, 267 out of 303 (87.82%) of those who voted were in favour of the plan. The turnout of electors was 34.27%.

The Council has assessed and concluded that the plan, including its preparation, does not breach, and would not otherwise be incompatible with, any EU obligation or any of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998). As such, the council decided the following, at the Full Council meeting on the 18 May 2023 to:

‘make the Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green Neighbourhood Development Plan with immediate effect’

This decision statement can be viewed on the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council website at: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/ESBGNP>

Hard copies of the Neighbourhood Plan are available for inspection or purchase from the Council’s Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 4AH (weekdays 8.30 to 5.00, Monday to Thursday, and until 4.30 pm on Fridays). Hard copies are also available to view at the Basingstoke Discovery Centre and Newbury Library during their normal opening times.

Further information can be obtained from the Planning Policy Team at local.plan@basingstoke.gov.uk