

Update note to	Burwash Parish Council
Subject	Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) - update
From	Steve Moore
Date	13 <sup>th</sup> April 2021

## 1. Background

1.1 At the last (March) Parish Council meeting an update was provided on behalf of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group on the position reached on the NDP. The appointed Examiner had asked RDC and the Parish Council for clarifications on a number of points. The Steering Group had drafted the replies and the Parish Council agreed these responses with the Chairman given delegated authority for any further requests.

## 2. Update

2.1 Following this the Examiner asked for clarification on two further points and these were responded to by the Steering Group, agreed by the Chairman and sent to the Examiner (through RDC) on 19<sup>th</sup> March.

2.2 Following this, at the request of the Examiner, a conference call was held on 26<sup>th</sup> March attended by the Examiner, two members of the Steering Group (Anne Newson and Steve Moore) and two Officers from Rother District Council (RDC). The Examiner asked for RDC and the Parish Council's views by no later than the morning of Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March on his two options:

Option One - to agree that with some amendments that the NDP did meet the required Basic Conditions and be recommended to proceed to Referendum

Option Two – to not make the suggested changes and instead rule that therefore the NDP does not meet the Basic Conditions and should not proceed to Referendum but for the Examiner to provide guidance on the changes that could be made to resubmit the NDP successfully in the future.

2.3 The Steering Group considered these options at a meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> March and voted unanimously to recommend Option One to the Parish Council. It was felt that if the changes proposed by the Examiner, in his final report, proved to be unacceptable we could consider our position again at that point. That same evening a report was made on this to the Planning Committee who agreed this approach and the Examiner was advised (via RDC) by email from the Clerk on the same evening.

2.4 On 1<sup>st</sup> April the Examiner released his draft report for fact checking but not for circulation. He was also clear that this was not for further representation but purely to ensure the facts were correct.

2.5 This draft report shows that the Examiner has decided to proceed with Option 1 and recommend the NDP proceeds to Referendum. The principal changes involve part of the main Housing section which includes sections which set out the difficult relationship the Parish Council has had with RDC being moved to an Appendix to provide a more positive approach. He has also amalgamated a few policies to provide better clarity and deleted a small number of proposed policies which repeat local or national planning policies. The Steering Group are content with these changes and delighted that subject to local Referendum that this will finally become a material consideration for future planning applications in the Parish.

2.6 The Steering Group has now carried out the fact check and sent this back to RDC on 11<sup>th</sup> April for onward despatch to the Examiner. RDC have confirmed receipt and that this would go to the Examiner today. The Examiner indicated that he would issue his formal report directly after he has received the fact check from both RDC and the Parish Council. We are not aware of when RDC will submit their comments but the Examiner indicated that he did not expect this to be too drawn out.