

## Hamble Parish Council Approves WeRHamble Neighbourhood Plan Evaluation

**In November the Council gave the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group the green light to proceed with an evaluation exercise, which will ask residents and local stakeholders to determine whether or not they would like to see the Parish develop a Neighbourhood Plan.**

The decision has been driven by the findings from the WeRHamble survey and the concerns and anxieties that exist over the important issue of future land use across the Parish.

The decision to go ahead with the Plan will be taken in April when the responses are considered. This is an important step for the village and we want people to get involved. You will be asked to answer either yes or no to the question: Would You like To See Hamble Le Rice consider a Neighbourhood Plan?

### **What is a Neighbourhood Plan?**

Neighbourhood planning enables residents to have more say on land use and local infrastructure such as where new houses, businesses and community facilities should go. The plan can allocate sites for development and may also include more detailed planning policies. It must however build on the policies in Eastleigh Borough Council's emerging Local Plan and the Waste and Minerals Plan developed by Hampshire County Council.

Neighbourhood planning was introduced by Government under the Localism Act in November 2011. It has the same legal status as the Local Plan once it has been approved at a referendum and at this point it comes into force as part of the statutory development plan.

### **How would the Neighbourhood Plan process work?**

Neighbourhood plans can only be prepared by a 'qualifying body' in this case this could be Hamble Parish Council.

As the qualified body the Parish Council could lead on the Neighbourhood Plan, but would also seek input from the community and a neighbourhood steering group made up of volunteers would need to be established.

The Local Planning Authorities (Eastleigh Borough Council and Hampshire County Council) are also involved and will make decisions at key stages of the process, such as approving the neighbourhood area within which the Neighbourhood Plan will have effect. It will also organise an independent examination of the plan and the community referendum that is held at the end.

The referendum is an important part of the process allowing those that live in Hamble Le Rice to decide whether or not the Neighbourhood Plan comes into effect or not.

### **Can a Neighbourhood Plan stop future development?**

A Neighbourhood plan would help the community to influence future land use across the Parish. However, whilst it DOES NOT need to include additional housing, it must be framed in terms of a presumption in favour of development and therefore CAN NOT be protectionist in terms of development. If agreed it would not have an impact on existing planning applications such as the GE site or the gravel application for the airfield.

### **Impact on Eastleigh Local Plan**

A 'made' neighbourhood plan for Hamble Le Rice would attain the same legal status as the Local Plan once it has been approved at a referendum. At this point it comes into force as part of the statutory development plan framework. In making the

Neighbourhood Plan both Planning Authorities will be consulted to ensure that the Plan is in line with the Local Plan and the Waste and Minerals Plan. It cannot be in conflict with it.

Applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

### **How much would it cost?**

There is no fixed format or template for a neighbourhood plan and the cost of preparing is therefore likely to vary depending on the complexity and size. It will also be determined by the level of 'brought in costs', such as expert reports that may be required as evidence. However, research suggests that preparing a neighbourhood plan could cost between £18,000 and £40,000.

## Next Steps

The Parish Council is seeking to engage with residents and stakeholders to evaluate whether or not there is support for a Neighbourhood Plan.

Communication will take place via the council website, e-mail, social media channels, parish magazine and mail drops.

The evaluation exercise will end on the 29th March 2019. A Parish meeting will be called to discuss the outcome and next steps.

*Surveys will be available on:*

**The Parish Council Website**

**Parish Council Facebook Page**

**Hard copies are also available from the Parish Council Office.**