



Barrow upon Soar Neighbourhood Plan – Decision Statement

Summary

This Statement publicises the decision taken by Charnwood Borough Council to “make” the Barrow upon Soar Neighbourhood Plan as part of Charnwood Borough Council’s Development Plan, in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

Background

On the 12th March 2014, Charnwood Borough Council designated Barrow upon Soar Parish as a Neighbourhood Area, for the purpose of preparing a neighbourhood plan, in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

The qualifying body, Barrow upon Soar Parish Council, invited representations on a draft Neighbourhood Plan from the 13th June to the 25th July 2016. The draft Neighbourhood Plan was formally submitted to the Borough Council on the 20th February 2017. Following confirmation by the Borough Council that all the necessary material had been submitted, a further 6 week statutory consultation on the submission documents was undertaken by the Borough Council from the 10th March to the 21st April 2017.

After consultation with the Parish Council, the Borough Council appointed an independent Examiner, Mr Richard High, to carry out an examination of the plan. The Examiner’s report was published on the 29th June 2017.

Charnwood Borough Council informally considered the recommendations put forward by the Examiner and were minded to accept all of the recommendations except one. The recommendation for BUS15: Road Network was felt to be unclear and as such new wording (in consultation with the governing body and the Highways Authority) was proposed.

The policy wording for BuS15: Road Network originally read “New housing development of more than ten dwellings will not be supported unless it can be demonstrated that existing traffic conditions will not be made worse.”

The Examiner proposed to reword Policy BuS15 to read “Where necessary and appropriate, new developments of more than 10 dwellings will be required to contribute to off-site improvements to the highway network to mitigate the effects of new development. Development will not be supported if the residual or cumulative impact on congestion or highway safety is severe.”

The Borough Council proposed alternative revised policy wording for BuS15 as “New housing developments of more than ten dwellings will not be supported unless it can be demonstrated that the residual cumulative impact will not make existing traffic conditions worse.”

As the Council proposed to make a decision which was different to the Examiner's recommendation a further consultation was held under Paragraph 13(1) Schedule 4B of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990(as amended). This took place for 6 weeks from 5th October to 16th November 2017.

Following this further consultation, the recommendations and subsequent modifications were considered by Members at Charnwood Borough Council's Cabinet meeting on the 14th December 2017. At the meeting it was determined that the Barrow upon Soar Neighbourhood Plan met the basic conditions against which it was examined, subject to a number of proposed modifications, and approval was given to allow the Neighbourhood Plan to proceed to Referendum.

These modifications were agreed with the Parish Council and the Borough Council held the Referendum in Barrow upon Soar parish on the 8th February 2018. The Referendum presented a single question upon which anybody registered to vote in the parish could answer 'yes' or 'no' to the following:

Do you want Charnwood Borough Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Barrow upon Soar to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?

All neighbourhood plans are required to gain a majority of 50% plus one in favour at a local referendum in order to be made by the local planning authority. A total of 21.7% of registered electors recorded votes. 999 votes were cast in favour of "Yes"; 56 votes were cast in favour of "No" and it was declared by the Counting Officer that more than half of those voting had voted in favour of the Barrow upon Soar Neighbourhood Plan.

Decision and Reasons

At the meeting of the Cabinet held on the 14th December 2017 it was resolved "that in the event of the referendum resulting in agreement for the neighbourhood plan to be made that authority be delegated to the Head of Planning and Regeneration to formally make the plan part of the statutory development plan for Charnwood, in accordance with the provisions of Section 38(A) (4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004."

Therefore, following the Referendum vote in favour of the Barrow upon Soar Neighbourhood Plan, the plan has been "made", forming part of the development plan, and can be used in the determination of planning applications in the parish of Barrow upon Soar.

With the Examiner's recommended modifications and the revised modification to Policy BuS15, the Barrow upon Soar Neighbourhood Plan meets the "basic conditions" set out in paragraph 8(2) of the Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990; is compatible with EU obligations and the Convention rights and complies with relevant provision made by or under Section 38A and B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended.

Barrow upon Soar Neighbourhood Plan

The Barrow upon Soar Neighbourhood Plan and associated documents are available to view on the Borough Council's website at:

<http://www.localplan.charnwood.gov.uk/content/index.php?id=130>

Paper copies are also available to view at:

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Southfield Road
Loughborough
LE11 2TX

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Bennett', with a stylized, cursive script.

Richard Bennett
Head of Planning and Regeneration
May 2018