



## **Ringmer Neighbourhood Development Plan**

### **The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012**

#### **Regulation 20 – Publicising a Neighbourhood Development Plan**

**Report prepared by James Garside – Lewes District Council Neighbourhood Planning Officer**

#### **1. Introduction**

1.1 Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), Lewes District Council has a statutory duty to support and advise communities in the preparation of neighbourhood development plans and to take such plans through the process of examination, referendum and adoption. The Localism Act 2011 (Part 6 chapter 3) sets out the Local Planning Authority's responsibilities under Neighbourhood Planning.

1.2 This statement confirms that at the Full Council meeting on 25 February 2016, Lewes District Council formally adopted ('made') the Ringmer Neighbourhood Development Plan. This follows the making of the Plan by the South Downs National Park Authority on 21 January 2016. Following adoption by both planning authorities, the Ringmer Neighbourhood Plan has now been brought into legal force, forming part of the statutory development plan for Lewes District. Consequently, the Plan will now be used when determining planning applications in the Ringmer Neighbourhood Area, which covers the entire parish.

#### **2. Background**

2.1 The Ringmer Neighbourhood Area, covering the entire Parish, was designated by Lewes District Council on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012<sup>1</sup>. This area lies within both the Lewes District and South Downs National Park Authority areas.

2.2 The Ringmer Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to Lewes District Council in August 2014. The Regulation 16 consultation took place between the 22<sup>nd</sup> September and 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2014 whereby the Plan was publicised and representations were invited on the Plan.

2.3 Mr Nigel McGurk was appointed by Lewes District Council, with the consent of the Parish Council, to undertake the examination of the Ringmer Neighbourhood Development Plan and to prepare a report of the independent examination.

2.4 The Examiner's Report concluded that subject to a series of modifications, the Plan met the basic conditions set out in the legislation and should proceed to a Neighbourhood Planning referendum. Modifications were made to the neighbourhood plan, in line with the Examiner's recommendations,

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.lewes.gov.uk/Files/plan\\_Ringmer\\_Designation\\_Notice.pdf](http://www.lewes.gov.uk/Files/plan_Ringmer_Designation_Notice.pdf)

and a Decision Statement was published in September 2015<sup>2</sup> confirming that the District Council is satisfied the Plan meets the basic conditions and can proceed to a referendum.

2.5 A successful referendum on the Ringmer Neighbourhood Plan was held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015 in Ringmer Parish, whereby over 90% of those who voted did so in favour of the neighbourhood plan becoming part of the statutory development plan for the district.

2.6 On 25 February 2016, Lewes District Council formally adopted ('made') the Ringmer Neighbourhood Development Plan (incorporating the modifications as set out in the Decision Statement) as part of the statutory development plan for the district. This followed the South Downs National Park making the Plan on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2016 at their Planning Committee Meeting.

2.7 Lewes District Council will continue to progress the Joint Core Strategy, the strategic plan which sets the context for the Ringmer Neighbourhood Plan, towards adoption which is expected later this year. The South Downs National Park Authority is also in the process of preparing their own Local Plan which will eventually replace the Joint Core Strategy in the areas of the district that lie within the National Park.


### 3. Conclusion

3.1 I confirm that the Ringmer Neighbourhood Plan (incorporating the modifications as set out in the Decision Statement), complies with the statutory and legal requirements and basic conditions set out in the Localism Act 2011, and following the Full Council of 25 February has been 'made'.

3.2 Therefore, the Ringmer Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the statutory development plan for Lewes District and will be used to determine planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area (the entire parish of Ringmer) as defined on 1 October 2012<sup>3</sup> with immediate effect.

3.3 I am taking the above mentioned decision as I concur with the advice contained in the above report under the 1990 Act in relation to the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

3.4 I declare that I have no personal or prejudicial interest in respect of this decision.



Signed.....

**Nazeya Hussain**

**Director of Business Strategy and Development**

**Date – 25 February 2016**



Signed.....

**Councillor Tom Jones**

**Lead Member for Planning**

**Date – 25 February 2016**

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.lewes.gov.uk/Files/Plan\\_Ringmer\\_Neighbourhood\\_Plan\\_Decision\\_Statement\(1\).pdf](http://www.lewes.gov.uk/Files/Plan_Ringmer_Neighbourhood_Plan_Decision_Statement(1).pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.lewes.gov.uk/Files/plan\\_Ringmer\\_Designation\\_Notice.pdf](http://www.lewes.gov.uk/Files/plan_Ringmer_Designation_Notice.pdf)