

**Adopting the Wroxham Neighbourhood Plan**  
Report by Planning Policy Officer

<b>Summary:</b>	This report provides details of the referendum held in relation to the Wroxham Neighbourhood Plan. The actual result will be reported verbally at the Authority meeting.
<b>Recommendation:</b>	Dependent upon the outcome of the referendum, and if the result is one of support, it is recommended that the Broads Authority adopts the Wroxham Neighbourhood Plan as part of the Broads Authority's Development Plan.

**1 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Wroxham Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to Broadland District Council and the Broads Authority in May 2017. The Neighbourhood Plan was prepared by a steering group of volunteers which has been overseen by the parish council.
- 1.2 Part of Wroxham's neighbourhood area falls within the administrative boundary of the Broads Authority.
- 1.3 The Neighbourhood Plan has been developed in consultation with residents and businesses in the parish, as well as landowners, developers and other stakeholder organisations. The Plan seeks to guide the future development of each parish over the next few years. It includes a vision and a set of objectives for the parish, as well as a series of policies that look to shape development.
- 1.4 The table on the following page illustrates the date at which Broadland District Council and the Broads Authority (its Planning Committee) approved the submitted documents, undertook the required six week publication of the Plan, and approved the subsequent recommendations of the appointed independent examiner (as detailed in their report).

	Approval of submitted Plan	Publication of Plan	Approval of examiners recommendations
Broadland Council	9/11/2019	19/11/2018 - 07/01/2019	8/2/2019
Broads Authority	9/11/2019	19/11/2018 - 07/01/2019	8/2/2019

- 1.5 Following approval of the examiners' recommendations and the necessary revisions being made details of the referendum was published on the Broadland District Council and Broads Authority websites. These details have also been made available at the Broadland District Council offices, at local

libraries and village locations, and the Broads Authority offices.

- 1.6 The Electoral Services team sent out polling cards to those on the electoral register and have made other statutory preparations for the referendum.
- 1.7 The Neighbourhood Plan referendum will be held on 21 March 2019. In order for the Neighbourhood Plan to be successful at referendum, greater than 50% of those that vote on the Plan need to vote in its favour.
- 1.8 Due to the timings of the referendum, Planning Committee and the Authority, the result has not been reported to Planning Committee. This decision has been made in order to ensure the Neighbourhood Plan is in place as soon as possible.

## **2 Next steps**

- 2.1 Assuming the referendum results in a successful outcome, Broadland District Council and the Broads Authority will be able to formally adopt or 'make' the Neighbourhood Plan (included as Appendix A).
- 2.2 Following a successful referendum, the Plan will form part of the statutory development plan for Broadland District and the Broads Authority.
- 2.3 The Plan will therefore be used, alongside existing Local Plan documents, in the determination of planning applications that fall within the Neighbourhood Area (parish boundary).
- 2.4 If the referendum result is a failed outcome, then the Council and Authority will not be able to adopt the Neighbourhood Plan.

## **3 Discussion**

- 3.1 Even if a referendum results in a successful outcome, Broadland District Council and the Broads Authority can refuse to adopt that Neighbourhood Plan if it considers that the Plan would breach, or would otherwise be incompatible with any EU obligation or any of the Convention Rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998). In this instance the Neighbourhood Plan would cease to be part of the Development Plan.
- 3.2 However, it is not considered that the Neighbourhood Plan is in breach of this legislation. The examiner of the Wroxham Neighbourhood Plan stated that, subject to the modifications recommended, they are satisfied that the Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions and other statutory requirements.

## **4 Financial implications**

- 4.1 Adoption of the Neighbourhood Plans requires a small amount of officer time in order to publicise the fact that the Plans will now form part of the criteria for determining planning applications within the respective parish.

- 4.2 Planners will have to consider the adopted Neighbourhood Plans alongside existing Local Plan documents when determining planning applications. However, this will form part of the existing process in determining applications and should not require extra resources.
- 4.3 The costs of the referendums have been met by Broadland Council from the 'Neighbourhood Planning New Burdens funding' for local planning authorities, provided by DCLG and therefore there is no direct cost to the Authority.

## **5 Legal implications**

- 5.1 The steps outlined in this report comply with appropriate legislation within the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. They also have regard to the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 and The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. If adopted, the Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the Development Plan and, where relevant, a major consideration in the determination of applications within Wroxham Parish.

Background papers: None

Author: Natalie Beal

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Appendices: APPENDIX A – [Wroxham Neighbourhood Plan](#)  
APPENDIX B – [Examiner's Report](#)