

Farnham Neighbourhood Plan Review 2018

The plan has had to embark on a partial review after the Inspector of Waverley Borough Council's Local Plan Part 1 raised the borough's housing figure.

Waverley Borough Council allocated an extra 450 homes to Farnham, bringing the total of new homes to 2780, to be delivered before 2032.

Additional sites could have been allocated by Waverley Borough Council in Local Plan Part 2 but the Neighbourhood Planning team decided that it would be preferable for the town to allocate its own sites.

The Local Plan Part 1 was adopted in February 2018 and Farnham Town Council subsequently launched a Call for Sites at the earliest possible opportunity in March 2018.

Every site, which has been previously assessed, will be re-assessed and all new sites will be assessed against the same robust set of criteria.

Farnham Town Council will have to repeat the Regulation 14 consultation. This will be in the form of an electronic survey, with hard copies available for those not on-line and is very much for residents and businesses within the town.

The main questions to be answered surround the allocation of sites, to deliver the revised number of new homes and include a small change of end date from 2031 to 2032, to bring the Neighbourhood Plan in line with the delayed Local Plan. There may also need to be changes to the Built Up Area Boundary.

It is not intended to make further major changes, although the review does give us an opportunity to update figures, improve layout and firm up text.

The neighbourhood planning team will be out and about during the consultation and hopes to visit as many venues and groups across the town as possible. The team will also be at all the FTC events throughout the consultation period and information will be readily available in the council offices. We need as many individuals as possible to respond to the consultation.

There are further steps which cannot be avoided. After the compulsory six-week Regulation 14 consultation, the plan will be amended where necessary and sent over to Waverley for another compulsory six-week consultation. This is mainly for stake-holders to comment but general support from residents' associations and local societies will always be helpful.

The Plan is then further amended, if necessary and has to be scrutinised again by a Neighbourhood Plan Examiner. Developers are likely to challenge the Neighbourhood Plan again and it may have to be examined in public once more.

If the Inspector and Waverley Borough Council agree that the changes have not materially changed the nature of the Farnham Neighbourhood Plan, it could be adopted without a second referendum.