



# North Weald Bassett Parish Council

Parish Hall at Thornwood Common, Weald Hall Lane, Thornwood, Essex CM16 6NB

Tel: 07572 507591

Email: [clerk@northweald-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@northweald-pc.gov.uk)

Website: [www.northweald-pc.gov.uk](http://www.northweald-pc.gov.uk)

Clerk to the Council  
Susan De Luca

7<sup>th</sup> June 2023

## TO: MEMBERS OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING COMMITTEE

You are hereby invited to attend a meeting of the **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING COMMITTEE** which will be held on **Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 7.00pm** to transact the business shown in the Agenda below.

**This meeting will be held in the Thornwood Common Parish Hall, Weald Hall Lane, Thornwood.**

Susan De Luca  
Clerk to the Council

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## AGENDA

### 1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

To **PROPOSE** a Chairman for the meeting.

### 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To **RECEIVE** any apologies for absence.

### 3. OTHER ABSENCES

To **NOTE** any absences for which no apology has been received.

### 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To **RECEIVE** any Declarations of Interest by Members

*A Member with a personal interest in a matter must consider whether it is a Disclosable Pecuniary, Non-Pecuniary or Other Pecuniary Interest, and declare it accordingly. A Member who is unsure as to how to declare their interest should seek independent advice.*

*If it is a Pecuniary Interest, the Member with the Interest **MUST** leave the Room for the duration of the Discussion.*

### 5. CURRENT POSITION

Work on the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) initially started in 2014 following the introduction of the Localism Act 2011, however work really gained full momentum in 2016 with the creation of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – a group of local residents who progressed the NP on a volunteer basis, supported by the Neighbourhood Planning Sub Committee, and providing recommendations to full Council. The Localism Act states that Neighbourhood planning gives

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communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area.

A considerable amount of time, effort and work was undertaken on the part of NP Steering Group and Sub Committee, which included public consultations, research, and liaison with other statutory bodies, which culminated in the creation of a draft NP document in 2020 which included draft planning policies. This draft document was put to the local community for consultation, and a copy sent to EFDC for review against the current (at that time) and proposed (now current) Local Plan. The feedback received was quite frustrating, and after the Steering group met in November 2021 to consider, this the Steering Group made a recommendation to Council that the Neighbourhood Plan be put on hold until such time as the Local Plan had been adopted, as progressing before this time could be very time consuming and costly, and the work undertaken could ultimately be a waste of time.

At the November 2022 Parish Council meeting, Councillors were made aware that the Ongar Neighbourhood Plan had progressed to referendum. After discussion on the subject, the Chairman stated that he felt the general feel around the table was that this Council should continue with a NP but advised Councillors that if this was the case the office staff would require a significant amount of support from Councillors who would need to be involved in the process and take ownership of the plan. Everybody would need to get involved. At the same meeting it was noted that there would be a financial cost and that this needed to be considered.

In March 2023, Epping Forest District Council approved its Local Plan for the period to 2033. The Local Plan sets out the development and growth in the district up to this date, and the following housing development sites are included within the Local Plan:

- NWB R1-R5 - Minimum 1,050 new homes in North Weald village
- SP4.1 – Minimum 1,050 new homes at Latton Priory
- Thor R1-R2 – Approx 172 new homes in Thornwood
- North Weald Airfield employment area
- Other Employment areas in the Parish

The current situation is that a NP must be in general conformity with the strategic elements of the Local Plan. For Councillors information, these are as follows:

- Chapter 2 'Strategic Policies' with the prefix 'SP';
- Chapter 3 'Housing, Employment and Transport' with the prefix 'H', 'E' or 'T';
- Chapter 5 'Places' with the prefix 'P'
- Chapter 6 'Infrastructure and Delivery' Policies 'D1 to D5 and D8'."

Therefore, the current position is that the District Council now has a local plan in place against which a NP could be assessed, and underneath which a NP and its policies could now sit.

## **6. REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS AND WHAT NEEDS TO BE CONSIDERED**

In order to establish the most appropriate way forward, Members of the Committee will be asked to consider the following questions:

- What is the purpose of creating a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish of North Weald Bassett?

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- Is this purpose covered by the Local Plan? If not, is a Neighbourhood Plan the best way of achieving it?
- What is the expected cost of future work for a Neighbourhood Plan, and is this worth the expected outcome?
- How engaged is the community, and is a Neighbourhood Plan something they want?
- How will public awareness of the Neighbourhood Plan be raised (the final step is a referendum)?
- How will be the separate public consultations by the different developers of the housing sites affect the Neighbourhood Plan process

Attached to the agenda are the following documents, all of which are relevant and need to be reviewed in order to establish the way forward:

- List of Local Plan Strategic Policies
- Local Plan Development Sites
- Draft Neighbourhood Plan
- Feedback from local residents
- Review of policies in Neighbourhood Plan conducted by EFDC in August 2021
- Review of EFDC's review completed by Navigus – November 2021
- Review of current policies against now 'made' Local Plan June 2023 completed by Navigus

## 7. THE WAY FORWARD

Committee members will be asked to **CONSIDER** the way forward, and put forward a **RECOMMENDATION** to full Council.

**Susan De Luca**  
**Clerk to the Council**