

Harborough District Council

Dunton Bassett Neighbourhood Development Plan – Final Decision Statement

1. Summary

- 1.1. Following a positive referendum result Harborough District Council is publishing its decision to 'make' Dunton Bassett Neighbourhood Development Plan part of Harborough District Councils Development Plan in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

2. Background

- 2.1. Dunton Bassett Parish Council, as the qualifying body successfully applied for the Parish of Dunton Bassett to be designated as Dunton Bassett Neighbourhood Area, under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (2012), which came into force in April 2012. On 2 March 2018 Harborough District Council approved the designation of the entire parish as Dunton Bassett Neighbourhood Area in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (2012) Part 2, Regulation 5A.
- 2.2. Following the submission of Dunton Bassett Neighbourhood Plan Examination Version to the Council, the plan was publicised and comments were invited from the public and stakeholders. The consultation period closed on 11 May 2022.
- 2.3. The Council, with the agreement of the Qualifying Body, appointed an independent examiner, Mr John Slater, to review whether the changes to the Plan were significant as to change the nature of the Plan. The Examiner determined that an examination and referendum would be required. The examiner considered the changes against the Basic Conditions and considered that a public hearing was required to examine certain issues more thoroughly.
- 2.4. The hearing took place on 11 October 2022 in Dunton Bassett Village Hall and was an opportunity for the Examiner to receive oral evidence on a limited number of questions.
- 2.5. A number of invitees were asked to appear at the hearing. Invitees included:
 - Dunton Bassett Parish Council
 - Harborough District Council
 - Aitchison-Raffety
 - Richborough Estates
 - Leicestershire County Council (Highways)
 - Historic EnglandHistoric England declined to attend the hearing but sent a written response.
- 2.6. The Final Examiners report concluded that with modifications and a final determination issued by the District Council regarding the requirement for a Strategic Environmental

Assessment, that the Neighbourhood Plan meets the Basic Conditions set out in the legislation and should proceed to a Neighbourhood Planning referendum.

- 2.7. A referendum was held on 29 June 2023 and a 'yes' vote was returned with 112 out of 136 persons that voted, voting '*to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Dunton Bassett to help it decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood area.*'
- 2.8. Paragraph 38A (4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended, the Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) and Development Management Procedure (Amendment) Regulations 2016 requires that the Council must 'make' the Neighbourhood Plan within 8 weeks if more than half of those voting have voted in favour of the plan.
- 2.9. The council are not subject to this duty if the making of 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).

3. Decision and Reasons

- 3.1. With the Examiner's recommended modifications Dunton Bassett Neighbourhood Development Plan meets the basic conditions set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 48 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.
- 3.2. The referendum held on 29 June 2023 met the requirements of the Localism Act 2011; it was held in the Parish of Dunton Bassett and posed the question:

'Do you want Harborough District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Dunton Bassett to help it decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood area?'

- 3.3. The count took place on 29 June 2023 and greater than 50% of those who voted were in favour of the Plan being used to help decide planning applications in the plan area. The results of the referendum were:

Description		Vote
Total number of votes cast		136
Number cast in favour of a "YES"		112
Number cast in favour of a "NO"		24
The number of Ballot Papers rejected was as follows	(a) Want of Official Mark	
	(b) Voting more times than the voter was entitled to	
	(c) Writing or mark by which the voter could be identified	
	(d) Being unmarked or wholly void for	

Description		Vote
	uncertainty	
	(e) Rejected in part	
	Total number of Spoilt Votes	0
Electorate 588 Turnout– 23.12 %		

3.4. Harborough District Council has assessed that the Plan, including its preparation, does not breach, and would not otherwise be incompatible with, any EU obligation or any Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).

3.5. In accordance with the Regulations and the Council's scheme of delegation Dunton Bassett Neighbourhood Development Plan is 'made' and planning applications in the Parish must be considered against Dunton Bassett Neighbourhood Development Plan, as well as existing planning policy, such as the Harborough District Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework and Guidance.

4. Where to view this Decision Notice

4.1. The decision notice may be viewed at:

Harborough District Council
The Symington Building
Adam and Eve Street
Market Harborough
LE16 7AG

Open - Mon/Tues/Thu/Fri: 8.45am - 5pm. Wed: 9.30am - 5pm