

## **Neighbourhood Plan Update- March 2021**

### **Brancaster NP Review**

Passed the examination in Jan 2021 and the decision statement was signed on 22 Feb 2021 agreeing for the neighbourhood plan to immediately come into force and replace the previously adopted Brancaster NP (2015).

When updating a neighbourhood plan there are three types of modifications which can be made. These will then determine the process the neighbourhood plan will follow. The modifications are:

1. **Minor (non-material) modifications to a neighbourhood plan or order are those which would not materially affect the policies in the plan or permission granted by the order.** These may include correcting errors, such as a reference to a supporting document, and would not require examination or a referendum.
2. **Material modifications which do not change the nature of the plan or order would require examination but not a referendum.** This might, for example, entail a design code that builds on a pre-existing design policy. Or a site or sites which, subject to the decision of the independent examiner, are not so significant or substantial as to change the nature of the plan.
3. **Material modifications which do change the nature of the plan or order would require examination and a referendum.** This might, for example, involve allocating significant new sites for development.

It was agreed by us, the Parish Council and the Examiner, that this neighbourhood plan review fell under modification 2. This means that, after the examination and decision statement have been signed, the plan comes into legal force without the need of a referendum. The decision statement was signed on the 22 February 2021. All appropriate documents of the neighbourhood plan review (2018) have been replaced on the BC website.

### **The neighbourhood plans which are currently at their Reg.18 stage and waiting for a referendum are:**

- **Holme next to sea:** passed examination, can be given significant weight in decision making process. Awaiting referendum due to pandemic
- **Upwell:** passed examination, can be given significant weight in decision making process. Awaiting referendum due to pandemic
- **Thornham NP-** Decision Statement has been issued as of 11/02/2021. This can now be given significant weight in the decision making process. Awaiting referendum due to pandemic.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2#decision-taking>

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/637/regulation/18>

On the 7<sup>th</sup> April 2020 the neighbourhood planning guidance added paragraph 107 which sets out changes that have been introduced to neighbourhood planning in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

As copied below, this now means that when a neighbourhood plan has reached their regulation 18 stage and a decision statement has been issued by the LPA and published on their website stating the intention to send a neighbourhood plan to referendum; this now allows the plan to be given significant weight in decision making (Para 107).

*(Part of Para 107) Decision-making: Where the local planning authority has issued a decision statement (as set out under Regulation 18 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012) detailing its intention to send a neighbourhood plan to referendum, that plan can be given significant weight in decision-making, so far as the plan is material to the application*

### **Update on other stages of neighbourhood plans to make you aware:**

#### **Reg.16 stage:**

- **Terrington St John:** Consultation running between Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March AM- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May PM
- **Hunstanton:** Consultation running between Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March AM- Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May PM
- **Heacham:** Consultation running between Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April AM- Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June PM

#### **Reg.17 Examination Stage:**

- **Castle Acre NP-** In the process of their examination
- **Tilney All Saints NP-** In the process of their examination

**Recently designated area:** Ringstead and Tilney St Lawrence

#### **Other updates- early stages:**

- Old Hunstanton- Recently just completed the screening report for the SEA/HRA and looking into starting Reg.14 consultation soon
- Grimston, Congham & Roydon- In process with NP documentation
- Gayton- In correspondence with ideas and drafts of their NP
- Stoke Ferry – in progress
- Watlington- In progress of drawing together evidence/responses for preparing the NP
- Marshland St. James – in progress?
- **Exploring their options:** Walpole, Great Massingham