

North Kesteven District Council



Leasingham and Roxholm Neighbourhood Plan Decision Statement

1. Summary

- 1.1. Following a positive referendum result North Kesteven District Council has made the Leasingham and Roxholm Neighbourhood Plan part of the Development Plan at a full council meeting on Thursday 14 December 2023.

2. Background

- 2.1 Leasingham and Roxholm Parish Council, as the qualifying body successfully applied for Leasingham and Roxholm Parish to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area, under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (2012), which came into force on 6 April 2012.
- 2.2 Following the submission of the Leasingham and Roxholm Neighbourhood Plan to the District Council, the plan was publicised and representations were invited. The publicity period ended on 18 July 2022.
- 2.3 The District Council appointed an independent examiner, Mr David Kaiserman BA DipTP MRTPI to review whether the Plan met the basic conditions as set out in Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and whether the Leasingham and Roxholm Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to referendum.

- 2.4 The examiner's report concluded that subject to a number of recommended modifications the Leasingham and Roxholm Neighbourhood Plan is able to comply with the 'basic conditions' and other relevant statutory provisions, and that the draft plan as modified can be submitted for a referendum. The examiner's report was made against the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (CLLP) adopted in 2017, which was at the time subject to review.
- 2.5 The review of the CLLP was completed with the adoption of an updated plan on 13 April 2023. The newly adopted CLLP has modified the strategic policies against which the Leasingham and Roxholm Neighbourhood Plan (LRNP) has been prepared and examined.
- 2.6 Policy 1 in the examination version of the LRNP was no longer in general conformity with Policy S4 of the CLLP. The approach of policy S4 'Housing Development in or Adjacent to Villages' differs markedly from the preceding provisions of the 2017 version of the local plan: the provisions for percentage growth limits based on the relative sustainability of a settlement have been removed as have the provisions for seeking community support, and with policy S4 now specifically restricting development of the edge of villages. In addition, the Plan includes references to outdated CLLP policies.
- 2.7 After considering the examiner's report, and the modifications the District Council decided that further minor amendments were required for the Plan to be in conformity with the strategic policies contained in the newly adopted development plan for the area.
- 2.8 Since this decision differed from that recommended by the examiner the District Council notified prescribed persons of their proposed decision (and the reason for it) and invited representations over a six week period.
- 2.9 The six week consultation concluded on 14 August 2023. The District Council determined that the Plan does not need to be referred for examination and should proceed to referendum.

3. Decision and Reasons

- 3.1. To enhance the clarity of the plan, in line with the recommendations of the Independent Examiner, the group made a number of minor modifications to the Leasingham and Roxholm Neighbourhood Plan. In addition, several additional changes have been made for the Plan to be in conformity with the strategic policies in the newly adopted development plan for the area. All changes have been consulted on and the District Council confirms that there is no need for the Plan to undergo a second examination.
- 3.2. The District Council concluded that with the minor modifications the Plan meets the basic conditions and other relevant legal requirements. Therefore, to meet the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 a referendum which posed the question 'Do you want North Kesteven

District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Leasingham and Roxholm to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?’ was held in the Parish of Leasingham and Roxholm on Thursday 9 November 2023.

- 3.3. The count took place on Thursday 9 November and over 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:

Electorate: 1340

Votes cast: 259

Percentage turnout: 19.3%

Yes votes: 211

No votes: 48

Spoiled ballot papers: 0

Percentage in support: 81.5%

- 3.4 The Council has assessed that the plan including its preparation does not breach, and would not otherwise be incompatible, with, any EU obligation or any of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).
- 3.5 The Council decided at the Council meeting on Thursday 14 December 2023 to make the Leasingham and Roxholm Neighbourhood Plan part of the Development Plan for North Kesteven.