



DECISION STATEMENT Regulation 19

ASFORDBY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Summary

This statement publicises the decision taken by the Melton Borough Council to 'make' the Asfordby Neighbourhood Plan as part of the Melton Borough Council's Development Plan, in accordance with regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

Background

Asfordby Parish received formal area designation for the purposes of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan the 30 January 2013. This area comprises of the whole of the Parish of Asfordby, inclusive of all three settlements, Asfordby Village, Asfordby Valley and Asfordby Hill.

The first submission of the Asfordby Neighbourhood plan was quashed due to a legal challenge and subsequent Consent Order (the agreement of all parties involved) endorsed by the High Court, Melton Borough Council was notified on the 14 March 2018.

Asfordby Parish Council – the 'qualifying body', submitted the Asfordby Neighbourhood Plan, along with supporting documents, to Melton Borough Council in February 2022 for consultation, independent examination and the remaining stages of the draft Plan's preparation in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended). The Council conducted a 'Regulation 16' 6-week formal public consultation on the Plan, from the 29 September 2022 until 11 November 2022.

Following this period, Melton Borough Council appointed an independent examiner, Andrew Ashcroft, in January 2023, to examine the Plan and consider whether it should proceed to referendum. A hearing was held on the 18 May 2023, for policy A1: Areas of Separation. The examiner's final report was issued to the Local Planning Authority on 14 June 2023. He concluded that the Plan met the basic conditions against which it was examined, subject to a number of proposed modifications, and recommended that the plan should proceed to referendum.

These modifications were agreed, and the Borough Council held the referendum in Asfordby parish on 28 September 2023. The referendum presented a single question

upon which anybody registered to vote in the parish could answer 'yes' or 'no' to the following:

“Do you want Melton Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for the Asfordby Area to help it decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood area?”

All neighbourhood plans are required to gain a majority of 50% plus one in favour at a local referendum in order to be made by the local planning authority. 282 votes were cast in favour of 'Yes'; 44) votes were cast in favour of 'No'. It was declared by the Counting Officer that more than half of those voting had voted in favour of the Asfordby Neighbourhood Plan.

Decision and Reasons

With the Examiner's recommended modifications, the Asfordby Neighbourhood Plan meets the "basic conditions" set out in paragraph 8(2) of the Schedule 4B 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.

Melton Borough Council decided (Chief Executive decision in consultation with the Portfolio Holder) to formally 'make' the Neighbourhood Plan on 10th November 2023, allowing the Neighbourhood Plan to form part of the development plan and to be used in the determination of planning applications in the parish of Asfordby.

Additional details

A copy of the Decision Statement is being sent to:

- The qualifying body, namely Asfordby Parish Council; and
- to any person who asked to be notified of the decision.

Asfordby Neighbourhood Plan and its associated documents are available to view on the Council's website at: [Asfordby Neighbourhood Development Plan \(meltonplan.co.uk\)](https://www.meltonplan.co.uk). Paper copies of the Neighbourhood Plan will be available to view during normal office hours at: Melton Borough Council, Parkside, Station Approach, Melton Mowbray, LE13 1GH¹.

For further information, please contact:

Planning Policy Team

Email: planningpolicy@melton.gov.uk

Phone: 01664 502502

Edd De Coverly

Chief Executive

Melton Borough Council

10th November 2023

¹ Please contact planningpolicy@melton.gov.uk two days in advance in order to have the printed document ready.