

Parson Drove Neighbourhood Plan

Draft Decision Statement (Reg. 19)

06 August 2020

Fenland District Council

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This Decision Statement has been prepared and published in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended). This statement sets out the Council's decision to formally make the Parson Drove Neighbourhood Plan, and the reasons for this decision.
- 1.2. This decision has been taken by Council, in accordance with the Council's constitution. The Parson Drove Neighbourhood Plan, the Decision Statement and Examiner's Report are published on the Council's website.

2. Background

- 2.1. The Parson Drove Neighbourhood Area was designated by Fenland District Council (FDC / the Council) in January 2015.
- 2.2. The Parson Drove Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan) and supporting evidence documents were submitted to FDC by Parson Drove Parish Council on 03 September 2019.
- 2.3. The Council published the Plan for a period of six weeks from 05 September to 17 October 2019. Following this publication period, the Council submitted the Plan for independent examination.
- 2.4. An independent examination was held in October and November 2019. The Plan was examined by Mr David Kaiserman BA DipTP MRTPI of Trevor Roberts Associates. The examination was carried out through written representations. No public hearing session was required.
- 2.5. The examiner considered that, subject to applying his recommended modifications, the Parson Drove Neighbourhood Plan makes appropriate provision for sustainable development, has appropriate regard to national policy, and is in general conformity with the strategic policies in the development plan. In addition, the examiner concluded that there is no evidence to suggest the Plan is not compatible with EU obligations, including human rights requirements.
- 2.6. Where modified in accordance with his recommendations, the examiner concluded that the Plan meets the basic conditions¹ and recommended it proceed to referendum.

3. Decisions and reasons

- 3.1. In December 2019, the Council published its R18 decision statement explaining the actions which would be taken in response to the recommendations of the examiner, including the modifications which would be applied to the draft plan.
- 3.2. Based on the examiner's findings and recommendations, the Council is satisfied that the Parson Drove Neighbourhood Plan (Referendum Version), meets the basic conditions and is otherwise legally compliant.

¹ As set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)

3.3. The Council held a referendum on Thursday 27 February 2020. As recommended by the Independent Examiner, the boundary of the Parson Drove Neighbourhood Area formed the referendum area. The referendum ballot asked the following question:

“Do you want Fenland District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Parson Drove to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”

3.4. The referendum results were:

	Votes recorded	Percentage
Number cast in favour of a Yes	272	84.74%
Number cast in favour of a No	49	15.26%
Rejected ballots	0	0.00%
Total	321	100.00%

3.5. As the Parson Drove Neighbourhood Plan was supported by the majority of voters, the Town and Country Planning Act (1990) (as amended) requires the plan must be formally ‘made’ by Fenland District Council as soon as reasonably practicable after the referendum is held. The plan was scheduled to be made by Full Council at its meeting of 21 May 2020. However, that meeting was withdrawn as a result of national measures to control the Covid-19 pandemic. Consequently, the plan is made by Fenland District Council’s Council at its meeting of 06 August 2020.

3.6. As a made plan, the Parson Drove Neighbourhood Plan forms a part of the Development Plan for Fenland.

4. Summary

4.1. Fenland District Council considers that the Parson Drove Neighbourhood Plan (Referendum Version) meets the basic conditions and other legal requirements, and was supported by the majority of voters at referendum. The plan is now formally made by Fenland District Council and will be used in making planning decisions.