

DNP Copy for *The Link* Autumn 2022

19 August 2022

Moving forward!

Datchet's Neighbourhood Plan is making good progress. The next stage, the Regulation 16 public consultation, is now underway. Alison Crampin reports

At the public consultation in spring (known as Regulation 14), the DNP team asked for your comments on the content of the Datchet Neighbourhood Plan (DNP). Appropriate changes to the Plan were then made, based on your feedback, and it was formally submitted to the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Council (RBWM) in mid-July. It was accompanied by a Consultation Statement and supplementary documents providing evidence to support the Plan and to demonstrate that there has been a rigorous programme of community and stakeholder engagement throughout the process. (You can read these documents on the DNP website: www.datchetneighbourhoodplan.org/regulation-16-documents.html)

The Regulation 16 Consultation

At the current Regulation 16 Consultation you may again comment on the DNP. While the Regulation 14 Consultation was about the content of the Plan, Regulation 16 is about the process. RBWM conducts this second consultation to check that the proper process has been followed and that the DNP complies with relevant legislation and meets the 'basic conditions'. The four basic conditions that the DNP will need to meet are as follows:

- have regard to national policy
- contribute to the achievement of sustainable development
- general conformity with the strategic policies in the development plan
- compatible with EU obligations.

RBWM will also appoint an independent examiner. (The choice of examiner will be made jointly by RBWM and the DNP team.) Comments made at the Consultation will be passed on

to the examiner but he/she can only consider those which fall within his/her remit to determine whether the draft plan meets the 'basic conditions' as laid out in The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

Where to see the proposed Plan

The proposed Plan may be inspected online via <http://consult.rbwm.gov.uk/portal>.

Hard copies are available at:

- Datchet Library, Montagu House, 8 Horton Rd, Datchet SL3 9ER
- The Bridge café, 24 The Green, Datchet SL3 9JH
- Datchet Parish Council Offices, 1 Allen Way, Datchet SL3 9HR

You can also read it on the DNP and Datchet Parish Council websites:

www.datchetneighbourhoodplan.org, www.datchetparishcouncil.gov.uk

How to make representations (comments)

The six-week consultation period runs from Monday 5 September 2022 until midnight on Monday 17 October 2022. During this time, comments can be made online, by email or by letter, preferably using the response form. (Response forms are available at the above locations, on the consultation portal for online responses, or a Word version can be downloaded.)

- To comment online, visit: <http://consult.rbwm.gov.uk/portal>
- To comment by email, send your email to planning.consultation@rbwm.gov.uk
- To comment in writing, send your letter/response form to Planning Consultation – Datchet Neighbourhood Plan, The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Town Hall, St Ives Road, Maidenhead SL6 1RF

When you submit your comments, you can also comment on the referendum area and whether an oral hearing should be held, and you may ask to be kept informed of the Plan's progress.

RBWM is publicising the proposed Plan widely to bring it to the attention of people who live, work or carry on business in the Neighbourhood Plan area (the Parish of Datchet). RBWM will also notify the consultation bodies referred to in the Consultation Statement.

The independent examination

After the Regulation 16 Consultation, RBWM is aiming to pass the Plan with the supporting documents and your representations (comments) to the appointed independent examiner during the week commencing 7 November 2022. (This date will also be dependent on the examiner's availability.) Once the examination is under way, we will be able to provide better estimates of the time frames for subsequent stages.

It is not unusual for examiners to recommend that changes are made to a Plan (to meet the basic conditions) before it can proceed to a public referendum. These modifications must also be discussed with the Neighbourhood Plan team. (At this stage, there is an option to withdraw the Plan.) If the changes are agreed, the examiner's recommendations are then presented to RBWM's Cabinet, the executive decision-making body of RBWM, comprising Borough Councillors.

Village-wide referendum

RBWM will then arrange for a referendum to take place. The date of the referendum will be publicised widely and, if you are on the electoral register, you will have the opportunity to cast your vote on whether or not you would like RBWM to use the DNP to help it decide any future planning applications in our neighbourhood area.

If more than 50 per cent of those voting in the referendum vote 'yes', then the DNP becomes part of the statutory Local Development Plan for the area and its policies must be used when making planning decisions.

The Plan's content should then be reviewed by Datchet Parish Council at their Annual Parish Meeting each April. This is the meeting of the parish electors at which Parish Council can

report what it has accomplished during the preceding year. As circumstances change, it may become necessary or desirable to review or update the contents of the DNP. There are set procedures to follow in order to do this.

Financial benefit

If the DNP is successful at referendum, it will allow the community to have a greater say in the way our area develops and result in increased funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). This is the money which developers contribute towards local infrastructure to support a development. The proportion of CIL money Datchet Parish Council receives directly from eligible development in the Parish is currently 15%. With a Neighbourhood Plan in place, this will rise to 25%, representing a 66% uplift in CIL funds to spend locally. The parish council must use the CIL receipts to fund the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on the village.

Development in the village

The DNP team is often asked if the Plan can prevent development on the former Green Belt site on London Road, known as AL39, which has been allocated for housing in RBWM's Borough Local Plan. The answer is no; a Neighbourhood Plan cannot contradict the strategic policies in the Borough Local Plan, including the allocations. What it can do, though, is help to shape that development so that it reflects the character of the village, and is sustainable and sensitively designed to minimise flood risk and climate change. As with all proposed development, the developer, Inland Homes, will have to submit a planning application for the site. This will have to go through all the usual planning processes and meet planning regulations. Residents will be able to comment on the proposals before development is permitted or refused. The DNP team is keen to progress the Plan as quickly as possible so that it is in place or has reached a sufficiently advanced stage to be taken into account should Inland Homes make a planning application.

A word of thanks

If, during the past few years, you've completed one of the DNP surveys, visited a Drop-in Event, chatted with the DNP team at a local event, joined a Character Assessment Walk or responded to the public consultations, then you've contributed to the Datchet Neighbourhood Plan. It's down to the help and support from the community that the Neighbourhood Plan has now reached this stage. We couldn't have got it this far without you. Thank you.

For more information, please visit www.datchetneighbourhoodplan.org

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