

Decision Statement

On behalf of West Dorset District Council, 11 September 2018

West Dorset District Council is satisfied that the Askerswell Neighbourhood Plan as modified meets the basic conditions, is compatible with the Convention rights, and complies with the definition of a neighbourhood development plan.

A referendum will therefore be held on 21 November 2018.

Background

The Askerswell Neighbourhood Forum and Area was designated on the 10 February 2015 in accordance with Part 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (the 'Regulations'). The relevant body is confirmed as the Askerswell Neighbourhood Forum and the designated Neighbourhood Area covers the same area as Askerswell parish.

In February 2018, Askerswell Neighbourhood Forum submitted its draft neighbourhood plan and supporting material to West Dorset District Council. The district council were satisfied that the documents submitted met the requirements of Regulation 15 of the 'Regulations'. The Neighbourhood Forum were notified of the district council's conclusion and informed that the plan could proceed to examination.

The submitted documents were made available for consultation from 12 March to 23 April 2018, and independent examiner Mr David Hogger, was appointed. The examiner's report was received on 14 August 2018.

In summary, the examiner's report concluded that the Askerswell Neighbourhood Plan would meet the Basic Conditions and other legal requirements, subject to the modifications as set out in **Appendix A** of this decision statement.

The neighbourhood plan has been amended to include the modifications recommended by the examiner and minor formatting amendments.

West Dorset District Council considered each of the recommendations and modifications contained in the examiner's report and proposed consequential amendments at its [Strategy Committee](#) on 11 September 2018. In considering the conclusions of the independent examiner, the Council agreed that the legal requirements and basic conditions had been met.

The council is therefore satisfied that the plan as amended...

- (i) meets the basic conditions (as set out in Schedule 4B to the Town & Country planning Act 1990); and
- (ii) is compatible with the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights act 1998); and

- (iii) complies with the provision concerning Neighbourhood Development Plans made by or under Sections 38A and 38B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, and

...can now proceed to a referendum.

The area covered by the Askerswell Neighbourhood Plan

The neighbourhood plan area covers the parish of Askerswell only.

Details of the Neighbourhood Plan Referendum

The independent examiner considered that it was appropriate for the referendum to be held over the neighbourhood area.

The referendum will therefore be held over the neighbourhood area; the same area as the parish of Askerswell. The referendum for the Askerswell Neighbourhood Plan will be held on 21 November 2018.

Where to find more information...

Copies of this decision statement, the Examiner's Report and the Askerswell Neighbourhood Plan (as proposed) can be viewed online at <https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/askerswell-neighbourhood-plan> or at Council Offices:

- **West Dorset District Council offices**, South Walks House, South Walks Road, Dorchester DT1 1UZ which is open 8.30am to 5.00pm Monday to Thursday and 8.30am to 4.30pm on Fridays.
- **Bridport Town Council offices**, Mountfield, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3JP which is open 8.30am – 5.00pm Monday to Thursday and 8.30 am - 4.30 pm on Friday.

A copy of this statement is automatically sent to the Neighbourhood Forum who submitted the plan and anyone who has asked to be notified of this decision.

Appendix A: Modifications / Recommendations from Examiner's report

Below are the recommendations and modifications taken from the Examiner's report.

Proposed modification number (PM)	Page no./ other reference	Modification
PM1	Pages 12, 13 and 14	<p>Paragraph 5.3: Delete from second sentence: taking into account the main views across the valley from key public vantage points.</p> <p>Delete all the third sentence: As a guide, new buildings or similar structures should not be visible from a distance of more than 1km from the viewpoints on public roads or paths in order to avoid harm.</p> <p>Paragraph 5.4: Delete second sentence: The policy wording and selection of important views were developed in conjunction with the landscape advisor of the Dorset AONB partnership and supported by them. The views are provided in Fig 5.</p> <p>Delete all paragraph 5.5.</p> <p>Delete Figure 5 on page 13.</p> <p>Delete policy E1.2 in its entirety.</p>
PM2	Page 14	Amend the start of Policy E1.1 to read: Development should conserve maintain the intrinsic qualities and landscape features of the Dorset AONB and
PM3	Page 15	Policy E2.1 – in conjunction with WDDC, prepare and insert a clear plan(s) identifying the landscape and historic features to be protected.
PM4	Page 19	<p>Policy E4.1:</p> <p>Amend second sentence to read:</p> <p>Particular regard, where feasible and practicable,....</p> <p>Delete sub-sections (a) to (e) of the policy in their entirety.</p> <p>Add a new third sentence to read: However, exceptionally high quality and innovative design will not be discouraged, for example where it would add interest and enhance the character of the area.</p>

Proposed modification number (PM)	Page no./ other reference	Modification
PM5	Page 21	Amend the start of policy B1 to read: The sustainable growth and expansion of existing local businesses and or the establishment of new businesses is supported providing such development would not harm to :
PM6	Pages 3, 22 and 23	<p>In penultimate sentence of paragraph 1.5: replace up to 4-5 with around 4-5.</p> <p>In third sentence of paragraph 8.2: replace about 4-5 with around 4-5.</p> <p>In second sentence of paragraph 8.3: replace as many as 5 with around 4-5.</p> <p>In third sentence of paragraph 8.6: replace <u>about 4 or 5</u> with around 4-5.</p>
PM7	Front Cover	Add Plan period: 2018-2028 to the front cover.