

THE BOTLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – AN UPDATE

INTRODUCTION:

Once the Botley Neighbourhood Plan (BNP) has passed examination and has been to referendum, it becomes a legal document and forms part of the Eastleigh Borough Council's Local Plan for specific planning matters within the Parish.

If passed at examination, any future development in Botley will be covered by all the policies within the Local Plan.

In the August 2022 edition of the Botley News we outlined the whole vision of the plan with an explanation of the processes required for our Neighbourhood Plan to be successful.

The BNP has just completed Regulation 14 which required a 6-week consultation with both the community and a wide range of key stakeholders and statutory consultees. This was carried out during the last quarter of 2022. Details relating to this consultation are still available and can be viewed at

<https://www.botley.com/np-information>

Prior to commencement of Regulation 14 consultation, all households within the Parish should have received a copy of the '*Botley Neighbourhood Plan Executive Summary*' leaflet providing a summary of the plan, as well as the following information:

- ❖ outlining the reasoning behind the plan
- ❖ the objectives of the plan
- ❖ the policies
- ❖ where the plan could be viewed
- ❖ how to make comments on the plan.

The Executive Summary pamphlet also included a 'BNP Consultation Feedback Form' enabling the Parish Council to consult with residents giving them the opportunity to express their own assessment of the plan. Many residents sent in their comments the majority of which supported the BNP whilst others offered helpful suggestions for minor modifications to wording. Where possible and appropriate, these amendments have been included.

At the March 2023 meeting, Botley Parish Council formally approved the BNP Submission Document. This will be submitted to Eastleigh Borough Council when all supporting documentation has been completed around mid-April. This will be Regulation 15 and it will be down to Eastleigh Borough Council to appoint an independent Examiner to examine the Plan. EBC will also undertake it's own consultation on the Botley Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 16) which will be exactly the same as our own Regulation 14, however in this case, all comments will go directly to the Examiner.

When the Examiner has examined the Plan, and given their comments, their recommended amendments are made to the Plan, following which a Referendum will be held throughout the Parish. If the Neighbourhood Plan is agreed by a simple majority of those who vote, then the Plan will be "made" by Eastleigh Borough Council.

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Once 'made' it is a powerful tool for shaping development which takes place within the Parish of Botley and covers a wide range of issues from protecting local green spaces, shaping where development can take place, economic policies, traffic policies and a policy proposing local gaps to help prevent overdevelopment and ensure we can retain rural gaps between settlements.

Throughout this process, the Parish Council's task will be to advertise throughout the community advising that this important Referendum is in progress.

The Parish Council and the members of the Botley Neighbourhood Plan committee would like to thank all those residents who provided a comment or response on the Neighbourhood Plan.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE

Thank you.

Councillor Stephen Wildin,
Chairman, Botley Neighbourhood Plan Committee

Councillor Dr. Colin Mercer
Chairman, Botley Parish Council