

Background to Bramley Neighbourhood Plan

The Bramley Neighbourhood Plan puts forward sites with the potential to deliver the housing requirement for Bramley identified in the 2017 Housing Needs Survey for the Parish. The Plan sets out what criteria will be used to assess planning applications for new housing and includes policies that will influence development, e.g. parking, what Bramley's attitude will be towards, e.g. applications for new mobile phone masts. It is a broad document that sets policies that will influence any and all development in Bramley until 2032. Once agreed, and ultimately it has to be agreed through a Referendum locally in which all residents have the opportunity to vote, it will have legal weight and will strongly influence planning in Bramley.

The first part of the consultation was a Housing Needs Survey in 2017 to which many of you responded. The Neighbourhood Plan Committee took that and other evidence documents such as the current Bramley Parish Plan and the Waverley Local Plan and completed a draft document for you to review, supported by further draft documents containing appendices, evidence and maps.

The first formal consultation on the plan was carried out in early 2019. Many local residents, businesses and other consultees attended a number of drop-in sessions to discuss the plan with members of the Parish Council. We also received many responses to our call for feedback on the content of the plan: all of which were reviewed, discussed and changes were made to the plan where relevant.

A final draft of the Plan and accompanying documents was submitted to Waverley Borough Council in March 2020. The Planning Policy team at Waverley carried out a basic legal compliance check on the plan and supporting documents. Waverley confirmed that the Plan and supporting documents were compliant and the Plan proceeded to the next stage, the Regulation 16 consultation, which was carried out from 5th February to 19th March 2021. Further changes were then made to the plan following this consultation and Mr John Slater was appointed by Waverley Borough Council to undertake an examination of the plan and to prepare a report of the independent examination.

The Examiner's report was received by Bramley Parish and Waverley Borough Councils on 16th August 2021. He concluded that, subject to making the modifications recommended by the Examiner, the draft Bramley Neighbourhood Plan met the basic conditions set out in legislation and should proceed to a Neighbourhood Plan Referendum. The Referendum took place on Thursday 18th November 2021.

Without a Neighbourhood Plan many planning decisions affecting the Parish will be governed by the Waverley Local Plan, which, although a thorough document, lacks the level of local input that a Neighbourhood plan provides.

The Neighbourhood Plan is a significant, important document that will, substantially, affect how Bramley develops in the period to 2032. It has the legal force to strongly influence development. Bramley did not need to produce this document, but then the decisions will be taken outside Bramley by Waverley or Surrey. Having a Neighbourhood Plan places greater control of the decisions within Bramley.