

Statement of Representations Procedure

Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan: Regulation 16 formal consultation

Ringwood Town Council has submitted a proposed Neighbourhood Plan to New Forest District Council and to the New Forest National Park Authority. Both authorities are seeking views and comments from residents and interested stakeholders on the proposed plan.

The consultation period is from **18 August 2023, until 3:00pm on 29 September 2023**.

What is this consultation about?

A Neighbourhood Plan is a statutory planning document setting out planning policies for the development and use of land. The Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan covers the full Ringwood Parish area with a particular focus on Ringwood town.

Where have the documents been made available, and the places and times at which they can be inspected?

The proposed Plan and supporting documents are available for inspection at the following locations, online or in person:

- New Forest District Council, Appletree Court, Beaulieu Road, Lyndhurst (Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm)
<https://www.newforest.gov.uk/ringwoodplan>
- New Forest NPA Office, Lymington Town Hall, Avenue Road, Lymington (Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm)
[Neighbourhood planning - New Forest National Park Authority \(newforestnpa.gov.uk\)](https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/Neighbourhood-planning-New-Forest-National-Park-Authority)
- Ringwood Town Council offices: Ringwood Gateway, The Furlong, Ringwood (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 9am to 4pm; closed on Tuesdays)
<https://ringwoodnp.org.uk/ringwood-neighbourhood-plan-document>

The documents submitted by Ringwood Town Council are

- The submission draft Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan, main document including Policy Maps, plus Appendices
 - Appendix A Ringwood Strategic Masterplan
 - Appendix B Ringwood Local Design Guidance and Code
 - Appendix D Local Heritage Assets
 - Appendix E Zero Carbon homes Background Note
- Consultation statement
- Basic conditions statement

Comments are not invited on Appendix C entitled 'Ringwood Local Distinctiveness Supplementary Planning Document'. This was formally adopted in July 2013 by New Forest District Council and is included for information only.

Representation forms

When making your representations please use the representation form provided wherever possible. Electronic representation forms are available on, and can be submitted directly from, the NFDC Neighbourhood Plan consultation webpage. Alternatively, a copy of the form can be downloaded.

Representations may also be submitted by email to policyandplans@newforest.gov.uk or by post to the following address:

Policy and Plans Team
(Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan consultation)
New Forest District Council
Appletree Court
Beaulieu Road
Lyndhurst SO43 7PA

Comments must be received by **3:00pm on Friday 29 September 2023**. A contact name and address must be provided, anonymous representations will not be accepted.

Making representations

Clearly state the document your comment relates to, including the number of the page, section, paragraph, policy, plan or diagram you are referring to. Complete a separate representation for each separate matter you wish to comment on.

You should consider in particular whether the plan meets the basic conditions set out below. The Basic Conditions Statement submitted by the Town Council explains how the proposed neighbourhood plan meets the requirements set out in legislation. These requirements are tested through the independent examination.

If in you view the plan does not meet the basic condition tests on a certain matter, it would assist the examiner to set out the changes that would be needed for these tests to be met.

In order to meet the Basic Conditions, a Neighbourhood Plan must:

- have regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State
- contribute to the achievement of sustainable development
- be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan for the area
- be compatible with EU obligations (including the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive) and human rights requirements.
- Ensure the prescribed conditions are met and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the order.

Further information on this can be found on the [National Planning Practice Guidance website](#).

After the consultation

Examination stage

The Councils will arrange an independent examination for the Neighbourhood Plan. The examiner will consider whether the Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions.

Representations submitted before the deadline will be forwarded to the examiner to consider.

The examiner decides on the conduct of the hearing. At the discretion of the examiner, parties who have made representation may be invited to comment further.

Independent examinations are usually undertaken through written representations. However, if the examiner considers that a hearing is needed to ensure adequate examination of an issue or for a person to have a fair chance to put a case, oral representations must be heard at a public hearing.

Please state in your representation whether you wish to participate in a hearing, should one be deemed necessary.

After the examination

Following the examination, the examiner will prepare a written report on whether the Plan meets the 'Basic Conditions'.

New Forest District Council and the New Forest National Park Authority will consider the examiner's recommendations and decide whether any changes are necessary to ensure the Plan meets the 'Basic Conditions'. Any changes would be consulted on.

The Plan (amended if required) would then go to referendum for residents of the neighbourhood area to vote for or against the adoption of the Plan.

Once adopted (or 'made'), the Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan would become part of New Forest District Council and New Forest National Park Authority development plans and would be used when determining planning applications in the Ringwood Parish area, along with all other relevant policies.