

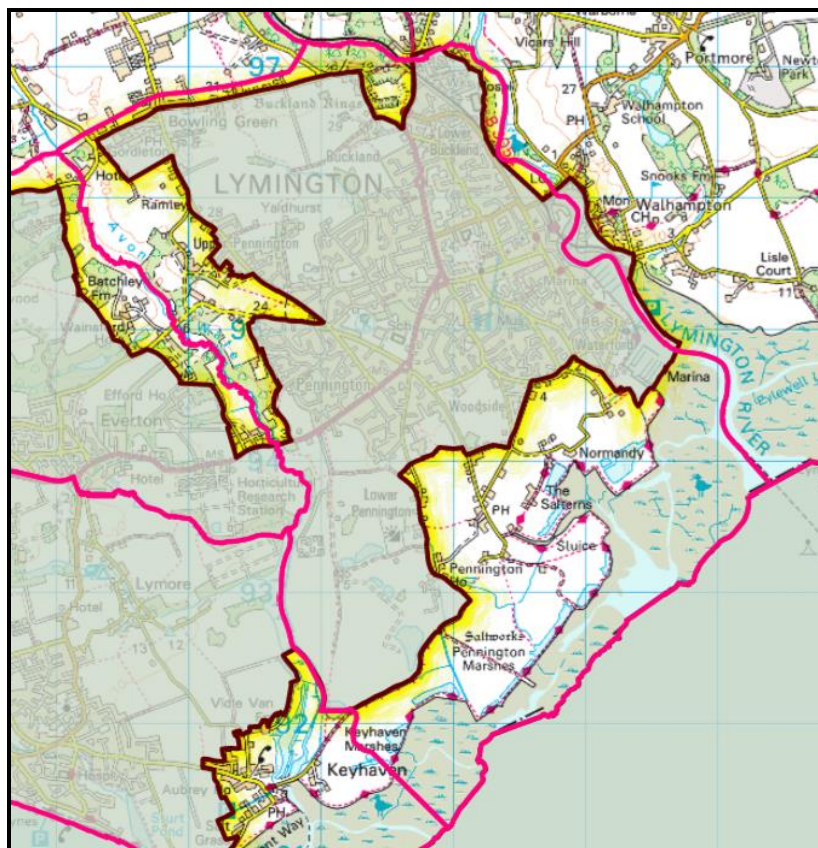
NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY PLANNING COMMITTEE – 15 APRIL 2025

LYMINGTON & PENNINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – CONSULTATION

Report by: David Illsley, Policy & Conservation Manager

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Lymington & Pennington Neighbourhood Area was designated by the New Forest National Park Authority in September 2015. This designation related to the area of the parish within the New Forest National Park for planning purposes. New Forest District Council similarly confirmed the designation of the majority of the parish which lies within their planning jurisdiction in September 2015.
- 1.2 The map below illustrates the boundary of the parish of Lymington & Pennington (pink line) - with the areas within the National Park (e.g. Pennington Common, Pennington Marshes, the Salterns and Buckland Rings) coloured; and the larger area of the parish within New Forest District Council's planning area in grey.



- 1.3 A key driver behind the Town Council's application for Neighbourhood Area designation was a sense of wanting to plan positively for the future of the parish. The preparation of the Plan was placed on hold during the preparation of the New Forest District Local Plan, but resumed following its adoption in Summer 2020.

- 1.4 A Steering Group made up of local residents and representatives of Lymington & Pennington Town Council has overseen the work on preparing the Neighbourhood Plan, including the liaison with officers from the National Park Authority and New Forest District Council. The Town Council has also appointed a planning consultant (O'Neill Homer) to support the production of the Neighbourhood Plan.

2. Pre-Submission consultation (Regulation 14) – Summer 2024

- 2.1 An important milestone was reached in Summer 2024 with the publication of the Pre-Submission draft Neighbourhood Plan, which was subject to a 9-week public consultation between August 2024 and October 2024. The National Park Authority submitted representations during this consultation period on the following areas:

- The need to ensure accurate cross-references in the Neighbourhood Plan to both national policy (e.g. the relevant paragraphs on National Parks in the NPPF) and local policy (the New Forest National Park Local Plan, 2019).
- We would encourage the independent Examiner to consider whether an existing Supplementary Planning Document can be given full 'development plan' weight as part of the neighbourhood planning process.
- Clarification over how the draft Neighbourhood Plan wording on digital communications infrastructure relates to the nationally protected landscape of the New Forest National Park.
- The need for the Neighbourhood Plan to consider the best available evidence on recreational impacts arising from new development on the integrity of the New Forest's internationally designated sites (SPA, SAC, Ramsar). The whole of the Lymington & Pennington Neighbourhood Plan area lies within the agreed 'zones of influence' for both the New Forest and Solent designated sites.

3. Submission draft Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 16)

- 3.1 In March 2025 Lymington & Pennington Town Council submitted their Regulation 16 'Submission draft' Neighbourhood Plan to the Authority and New Forest District Council. Alongside the draft Plan the following information was also submitted:

- The Lymington Local Distinctiveness Supplementary Planning Document;
- Sustainability Appraisal Report;
- Habitats Regulations Assessment;
- Basic Conditions Statement – setting out the Town Council's position on how the draft Plan meets the 'basic conditions' that it will be examined against; and
- Consultation Statement – setting out the consultation undertaken over several years during the preparation of the Plan.

- 3.2 Under Regulation 16 of the [Neighbourhood Planning \(General\) Regulations 2012](#), the National Park Authority and New Forest District Council are required to consult a range of stakeholders on the Submission draft Neighbourhood Plan for a period of at least 6 weeks. The intention is that the National Park Authority and New Forest District Council will hold a joint consultation, commencing in late April 2025.

- 3.3 The Submission draft Lymington & Pennington Neighbourhood Plan is set out in Annex 1. It comprises 13 draft planning policies, covering matters including Lymington Town Centre, design, green infrastructure and nature recovery. At this stage the Authority is required to check that the necessary procedures have been followed and the required information submitted, before arranging the final consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan. It is through this consultation that representations will be made, before the Plan and its supporting evidence base is subject to independent examination and ultimately a local referendum.
- 3.4 Officers have reviewed the information submitted with the draft Lymington & Pennington Neighbourhood Plan – as summarised in paragraph 3.1 of this report – and have concluded that the statutory requirements have been met. It is therefore recommended that the Submission draft Lymington & Pennington Neighbourhood Plan (Annex 1) proceeds to the final stage of public consultation under Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Plan (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended). This consultation will be jointly co-ordinated by the National Park Authority and New Forest District Council.

Recommendation:

Members of the Planning Committee endorse the Submission draft Lymington & Pennington Neighbourhood Plan in Annex 1 to this report for the purposes of the final public consultation under Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

Papers:

PC 486/25 – Cover report

Annex 1 – Submission draft Lymington & Pennington Neighbourhood Plan

Equality and Diversity Implications:

There are no specific equality or diversity implications arising out of this report. A wide range of statutory and other consultees will be consulted on the Submission draft Neighbourhood Plan.

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