

Making Waterbeach Neighbourhood Plan

23/02/2022

Thankyou Chair and Council for allowing me to speak at what to the people of Water beach is a momentous occasion, as you make the WBNP.

It was 7 years ago that SCDC agreed that Waterbeach should develop a Neighbourhood Plan that would reflect the wishes of people living withing the boundaries of the Parish.

Those 7 years were spent in producing several iterations of the plan, each reflecting the views of Waterbeach People, Community Groups and Business's. Evidence for the plan was gathered using Drop-In sessions in community rooms and at the Village Feast.

Questionnaires were deployed online and in paper form and fed back though collection boxes in shops and community groups.

The consideration of the evidence collected led to the plan being developed as a document which was then tested and amended through the formal consultations in the Neighbourhood Plan Process. This included the whole of the SCDC Statutory Consultee list. So it can be seen that we consulted on a wide range of views and diverse interests.

The plan was reviewed against comments at each consultation and amended accordingly.

A Submission version was then produced and assessed by an independent Inspector to ensure planning policies such as NPPF and the SCDC Local Plan were properly respected, recommending changes to make it so.

I would like to thank Alison Talkington and her team for the work they put in to assist us an applying the Inspectors suggestions to the NP and getting it to point where it could be presented to the people in the form of a Referendum. This turned out a positive result on 3rd March 2022.

We now entrust our Neighbourhood Plan to you all in the hope it will be made and be used as the basis for all Waterbeach planning decisions as the view of every Waterbeach resident without having to wait for comments to come in.

Finally for other Villages wishing to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan, it is hard but worthwhile. Don't be afraid but do get help.

Our Planning Advisor, Rachel Hogger from Cambridgeshire ACRE has been invaluable, embedding herself into the team and ensuring we properly applied the policies.

Brian Williams

Chair of WBNP Group and WPC Vice Chair