



Timeline and History of Westfield Neighbourhood Plan

Last updated: 22nd November 2018

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Neighbourhood Planning in B&NES

Neighbourhood planning is a right for communities introduced through the Localism Act 2011. Communities can shape development in their areas through the production of Neighbourhood Development Plans, Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders.

Neighbourhood Development Plans become part of the Local Plan and the policies contained within them are then used in the determination of planning applications. Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders allow communities to grant planning permission either in full or in outline for the types of development they want to see in their areas.

The local parish or town council will lead on neighbourhood planning in their areas. Where one does not exist then a community group known as a neighbourhood forum needs to be established to lead. The Localism Act recognises that not all communities are residential in nature and as such in areas that are predominantly commercial then a business led neighbourhood forum can be established.

The Local Planning Authority is involved and will make decisions at key stages of the process, such as approving the neighbourhood area within which the Neighbourhood Development Plan will have effect. It will also organise the independent examination of the plan and the community referendum that is held at the end of the process.

The referendum is an important part of the process allowing those that live in the neighbourhood area to decide whether or not the Neighbourhood Development Plan, Neighbourhood Development Order or Community Right to Build Order comes into effect or not. This is direct democracy and outlines the importance of working with the wider community and securing their support at an early stage in the process.

Progress of Westfield Neighbourhood Plan

Westfield Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) has been ‘made’ by B&NES and is now a part of the Council’s development plan which is in accordance with section 38A(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Reasons for making this decision:

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- 82.5% of those voting in the Westfield Neighbourhood Plan referendum on Thursday 6th of September 2018 have voted in favour of the Plan

Westfield Neighbourhood Development Plan was ‘made’ by B&NES on 12th November 2018 and is now a part of the Council’s development plan which is in accordance with section 38A(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

[Westfield NDP Decision Statement](#)

Key dates of each neighbourhood plan stage:

Neighbourhood Plan Area Designation	23 rd April 2015
Regulation 14 Consultation	30 th October – 11 th December 2017
Regulation 16 Consultation	3 rd April – 15 th May 2018
Examination Report	18 ^h June 2018
Referendum	6 th September 2018
Date Plan made	12 th November 2018

Westfield NDP Made Plan and Appendices

- [Westfield Neighbourhood Plan – Made Version](#)

Supporting documents submitted:

- [Appendix 1 – Westfield Neighbourhood Plan Working Group](#)
- [Appendix 2 – The Neighbourhood Area](#)
- [Appendix 3 – Preserving Heritage](#)
- [Evidence Base](#)
- [Basic Conditions Statement](#)
- [Consultation Statement](#)
- [Sustainability Appraisal](#)
- [HRA Screening Report](#)
- [SEA Screening Report](#)
- [Neighbourhood Area Designation – Application Pack](#)
- [Validation Notice](#)

Westfield Neighbourhood Plan Area Designation

In 2014 Westfield Parish Council decided to develop a Neighbourhood Plan under the terms of the Localism Act 2011, to provide a legal basis for residents to determine the future for their community.

Westfield Parish Council applied to become a neighbourhood planning area. On 3rd April 2015, B&NES Council approved that the Westfield Neighbourhood Area be designated in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

[Westfield Neighbourhood Plan Area Designation](#)

Regulation 14 Consultation

Before submitting a Neighbourhood Plan to B&NES, a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group must publicise in an appropriate manner in the neighbourhood area:

- details of the proposals in a neighbourhood development plan
- details of where and when proposals for the neighbourhood development plan can be seen
- details of how to make representations
- the deadline for receipt of representations (minimum 6 week period)

This is a formal requirement under Regulation 14 of the neighbourhood planning regulations.

The Regulation 14 consultation is contained within the Westfield NDP consultation statement. The Regulation 14 consultation took place between 30th October 2017 – 11th December 2017.

Regulation 16 Consultation

The Regulation 16 document is a summary, written by Officers at Bath and North East Somerset Council, of the comments made during the Regulation 16 consultation on the Westfield Neighbourhood Plan, which took place between the 3rd April 2018 – 15th May 2018.

A summary was written to provide assistance to the Examiner and to allow anyone who wished to see some of the issues raised. It does not contain every point a consultee has made. The Examiner read the comments of each consultee in full. This is a formal requirement under regulation 16 of the neighbourhood planning regulations:

[Westfield NDP Regulation 16 Consultation Responses](#)

Examination

In May 2018, B&NES Council appointed an independent examiner, Christopher Edward Collison, to review the Plan and consider whether it should proceed to referendum.

The examiner's report was received on 18th June 2018 and concluded that subject to making the modifications recommended in the report, that the draft Plan meets the Basic Conditions and should proceed to referendum. The examiner also recommended that the area for the referendum should not extend beyond the Neighbourhood Area to which the plan relates.

[Report on the examination of the Westfield Neighbourhood Plan](#)

Referendum

Following receipt of the examiner's report Westfield Neighbourhood Plan was updated as requested by the Planning Examiner and a referendum on the making of the Neighbourhood Plan was held on Thursday 6th of September 2018.

The question which was asked in the Referendum was:

"Do you want Bath & North East Somerset Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Westfield to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"

The result was as follows:

- Yes = 452 votes
- No = 96 votes
- Turnout = 11.45% per cent

[Referendum result notice](#)

Plan 'made'

Westfield Neighbourhood Development Plan was 'made' by B&NES on 12th November 2018 and is now a part of the Council's development plan which is in accordance with section 38A(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

[Westfield NDP Decision Statement](#)