



Mid Suffolk District Council

Adoption of Drinkstone Neighbourhood Development Plan

Final Decision Statement

On 6 May 2021, a local referendum was held in which more than half of those who voted did so in favour of the Drinkstone Neighbourhood Development Plan. Accordingly Mid Suffolk District Council has decided to 'make' (adopt) the Plan. This decision was taken on 19 May 2021.

The Plan as made becomes part of the development plan for the area and will be used where relevant to help the District Council decide planning applications.

Reason for Decision

In accordance with the provisions of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations, 2012 (as amended) the District Council appointed an independent examiner to assess the submitted Drinkstone Neighbourhood Plan.

The examination was undertaken by Ann Skippers BSc (Hons) MRTPI FHEA FRSA AoU, a 'suitably qualified and experienced' person who was independent of the plan making process. The Examiner concluded that subject to modification the Plan would comply with the 'Basic Conditions' set out in Paragraph 8(2), Schedule 4B the Town and Country Planning Act, 1990.

Mid Suffolk Cabinet, at its meeting on 9 June 2020, agreed with the suggested modifications and concurred that the Plan so modified would comply with the Basic Conditions. Cabinet therefore resolved that the Drinkstone Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to a local referendum. At the time, regulations linked to the Coronavirus Act 2020 meant that no referendum could take place until May 2021 at the earliest.

The local referendum was held on 6 May 2021. The format of the question asked was:

'Do you want Mid Suffolk District Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Drinkstone to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'

More than 50% of those who voted were in favour of the Plan. The declared result was:

Response	No. of Votes Cast	Percentage of Total
Yes	239	82.9 %
No	47	17.1 %
Other	2	-
<i>Total</i>	<i>288</i>	<i>100%</i>

The result of the local referendum enables the District Council to formally make the Drinkstone Neighbourhood Plan unless it considers that the Plan would be in breach of any EU obligation or any of the Convention Rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act, 1998). At its meeting on 9 June 2020 the Council decided that the Plan was not in breach of this legislation and that it should be made part of the Development Plan for the district.

Dated: 19 May 2021