



Supporting Our Community

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Godalming & Farncombe Neighbourhood Plan Passes Examination.

Godalming Town Council is pleased to announce that, subject to some modifications, The Godalming and Farncombe Neighbourhood Plan has successfully passed examination and has been recommended by the Independent Examiner to proceed to referendum. This takes the local community a step closer to having a greater say over the future of the area in which they live.

Mr John Slater, the Independent Examiner, commented that the plan “is a well prepared and laid out neighbourhood plan, which focuses on matters that have been identified as important to the local community...” he continued: “I must congratulate Godalming Town Council for preparing what is a locally distinct neighbourhood plan, which seeks to deliver on the expressed priorities of the residents of Godalming and Farncombe. The plan will provide a sound basis for dealing with planning applications in the parish over the next decade or so.”

Anne Bott, Chairman of the Godalming & Farncombe Neighbourhood Plan (GoFarNP) Steering Committee and Town Councillor for Godalming’s Holloway ward, said “On behalf of all the many dedicated volunteers who worked on this document I am extremely pleased that our plan has passed examination, this has been a real community effort. There have been many full and robust debates with Waverley Borough Council. We appreciate both Waverley’s commitment and support for the GoFarNP which has culminated in a Neighbourhood Plan that is both constructive and deliverable and has passed the stringent tests set by legislation and the Independent Examiner.

The GoFarNP sets out policies to create a *‘balanced community’*. One of its principal aims is to accommodate growth and housing need, which strikes a balance between much needed housing (development) and the need to protect all the aspects and character of our neighbourhood that makes Godalming and Farncombe so special.” Cllr Bott went on to say, “This is a really important and significant step in the Neighbourhood Plan process and once the few modifications, as agreed in principle, are accepted by Waverley it is anticipated that the Plan will go to referendum in June where Godalming and Farncombe residents will be asked to vote on the Plan.”

The full examiner’s report can be viewed at <https://godalming-c.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplan/>

Ends...

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Release Date: 11 March 2019

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