

Decision Statement Regarding Cannock Wood Neighbourhood Development Plan (24.01.24)



(Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, as amended)

Cannock Chase District Council decided by resolution of Full Council on 24th January 2024 to make the Cannock Wood Neighbourhood Development Plan under Section 38A(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). The Cannock Wood Neighbourhood Development Plan now forms part of the Development Plan for Cannock Chase District.

1. Decision and Reasons

- 1.1 The Cannock Wood Neighbourhood Development Plan meets the Basic Conditions and its promotion process is compliant with legal and procedural requirements. Paragraph 38A(4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the Council to make the Neighbourhood Plan if more than half of those voting in the referendum have voted in favour of the Plan being used to help decide planning applications in the area. The Plan was endorsed by more than the required threshold in the referendum on 4th January 2024.

2. Background

- 2.1 Cannock Wood Parish Council applied to Cannock Chase Council for the land within the Parish boundary to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area on 16th May 2019. The application for the Neighbourhood Area designation was for the whole of the Cannock Wood Parish only. The District Council was therefore required to designate the Neighbourhood Area as requested (in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (2012, as amended) Regulation 5A). On the 6th June 2019, Cannock Chase Council (via delegated authority) resolved to designate the Cannock Wood Parish as the Cannock Wood Neighbourhood Area.
- 2.2 The principal stages of consultation included a detailed survey via a paper booklet delivered to every house and online. Results were published at the end of 2021. Draft objectives were drawn up and consulted upon in February 2022 followed by a drop-in event at the Village Hall. Consultation on informal draft policy took place in March 2022. Formal consultation under Regulation 14 was undertaken between 30 May 2023 and 11 July 2023.
- 2.3 The Cannock Wood Neighbourhood Plan was submitted by the Parish Council to Cannock Chase District Council in October 2022 for assessment by an independent examiner. The Plan (and associated documents) was published for consultation by Cannock Chase District Council for 6 weeks between 3rd July and 14th August 2023 (the Local Authority publicity consultation period- Regulation 16).

Mr Andrew Freeman BSc (Hons) DipTP DipEM FRTPI was appointed as the Independent Examiner for the Cannock Wood Neighbourhood Plan and all comments received to the Local Authority publicity consultation period were passed on for his consideration.

2.4 The Examiners Report was received on the 19th September 2023. The Examiner has concluded that subject to modifications the Cannock Wood Neighbourhood Plan meets the Basic Conditions. It has also met all of the relevant legal requirements. On this basis it should therefore proceed to Referendum.

2.5 Cannock Chase District Council issued a Reg 18. 'Decision Statement' on the 18th October 2023 which agreed with the Examiners recommendations and confirmed that the plan should proceed to Referendum.

2.6 A referendum was held on Thursday 4th January 2024. 92% of those who voted were in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan. Paragraph 38A(4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) requires that the Council must make the Neighbourhood Plan if more than half of those voting have voted in favour of the plan.

2.7 This decision statement can be viewed online on the Cannock Chase District Council website www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/planningpolicy or hard copies are available to view at the following locations during normal opening hours:

- Cannock Chase Council Civic Centre offices, Beecroft Road, Cannock, WS11 1BG (9am - 4pm weekdays)
- Burntwood Library, Sankeys Corner, Bridge Cross Road, Burntwood WS7 2BX (9am - 5pm weekdays, 10am - 4 pm Saturday)