



Usually NP - but can be more properly described as Windlesham Village Neighbourhood Development Plan – WVNDP.

NP Policies take precedence over existing non-strategic policies in the SHBC Local Plan (LP) covering the defined neighbourhood area – but can be superseded by strategic or non-strategic policies adopted subsequently – and when “made” will form part of the SHBC Development Plan. The final version of the LP, with its strategic policies was submitted to the Secretary of State (of MHCLG) in December who will pass it to the Planning Inspectorate to Inquire into its “soundness” – in public later this year – that is “sound” as set out in the NPP which in summary means – is it positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy. But, as if passing in flight, the government, at nearly the same time, announced its demand for greatly increased housing numbers – around twice the “plan” figure for SHBC.

NP's have been around for some time, from a 2011 Act of Parliament, but the Windlesham Village NP is still the only one in SH. The October 2014 letter of “application for designation” by WPC being a “relevant body” under T&C 1990, the Legal Entity, for the three villages, very clearly explained that it was to be for Windlesham Village (only) because of its special character as being semi rural, sitting within the Green Belt, with specific rural exclusion issues not experienced by the other two villages. It said that Windlesham villagers consider the neighbourhood to be Windlesham Village NOT the Parish. It referred to the SHBC Corporate Plan – “that we will build and encourage communities where people can live happily, healthily and will be fulfilled”, by a Windlesham Village specific plan to ensure that the village can shape its own development through research and community engagement. We might all agree, generally, with that !

The Government in the form of MHCLG (formerly DLHH&C) confirmed the continuing importance which they attach to NP's in October 2024 with the launch of the procurement process for new contracts for NP Support Services for 2025 to 2027. An importance which has not been apparent to us in the period from 2019 to date when it has not been “maintained” or “updated” by its owners.

The NP was not on the WVC March meeting agenda but noted that in December meeting minute WVC/24/54 there was discussion about a grant application to “Locality” to be made by the Assistant Clerk & Cllr Marr in the amount of £3581 (oddly precise ?!) – I believe that the decision will be soon. But what to do with it ?



In my title I refer to NP v LP (for 2019 – 2038). It appeared to this member of the electorate that the submission version of the LP was not given the attention that it may deserve and there must be concern that, in terms of housing development, the now much increased “housing numbers” must have local concern and especially for Windlesham Village. The Inspectors examination in public and report is scheduled for the Autumn of this year – precise timing to be confirmed but I strongly suggest a need for preparation by representation of this village so that we can present a challenge if necessary.

This may be another issue to include in reforming the “Traffic & Infrastructure Working Party Terms and Conditions” and to consider whether the existing working party members are sufficient for the task. It is a feature of the existing “arrangements” with warding of the villages, that the number of Cllrs is based on the LGBCE “Electoral Equality Ratio” whereas individual Parish Councils can decide their Cllr numbers based on the work that Councils choose to do. In this context it can appear that the 5 Windlesham Village Cllrs may be carrying an unfair burden – other matters being equal in the number of tasks of each village

These are opinions based on what appears in public – other opinions are always welcome in this place.

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