

Minutes of Little Hallingbury Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

Tuesday 3rd March 2026 - 7.30pm.

Present: Jane Fitzgerald, Steve Gardiner, Donna Johnson, Brenda Layton, Val McKirdy, Sue Meyer, Keith Summerford, Robert Wingard.

Apologies: Cara Fitzgerald.

Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed

UDC Reg 16 Consultation: Details of the UDC Reg 16 Consultation were discussed and the review site was looked at, along with the comment form. The Reg 16 comments guidance notes produced for those wishing to submit a response to the consultation were viewed and a copy will be circulated to the Steering Group.

Parish Meeting 10th March LH VH 8pm: Steering Group members were invited to the Parish Council Annual meeting where there will be a brief presentation on the LH Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed to mount a display of the Plan Policies and to provide Reg 16 response forms for those who wish to comment on the submission draft. VM to send JF details of the Plan pages and a copy of the comment form to be printed for this.

Update on Independent Examiner: UDC has contacted Ann Skippers regarding our preference for her to undertake the examination, and she has confirmed that she is available to begin in April.

There is a query regarding when the Parish Council/Steering Group will review the Regulation 16 consultation responses. UDC will also require approximately one week to consolidate the responses once the consultation period has ended. These steps should not delay the start of the examination, as there will be work needed to review the Plan documentation submitted to date.

Once these points have been clarified, a date can be confirmed for the commencement of the independent examination.

UDC Local Plan Update: A UDC full council meeting to approve the Plan is scheduled for 25th March 2026. If councillors vote in favour, the Plan will be formally adopted from 1st April 2026.

RES and Affordable Housing: It has been agreed that local connection criteria should be included for affordable housing on the Camps Field development and every effort will now be made by UDC to include an additional paragraph within the Section 106 agreement for Camps Field before it is finalised. In the event this is not possible, there will be a requirement at the reserved matters stage to incorporate the local connection criteria for affordable housing on the Camps Field site.

Government NPPF Consultation deadline 10th March 2026. The Government is once again consulting on major changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). These proposals would significantly affect how rural communities manage development, protect the Green Belt, secure affordable housing, and safeguard local landscapes and farmland. Parish Council are responding to the Consultation and commenting specifically on the issues which affect this Village: Green Belt around stations, tests for Green Belt and widening Grey Belt definitions.

LHNP Website updated: RW has recently updated the LHNP website to include the links to the Reg 16 Consultation and details of the Reg 14 Consultation event.

Timetable to LHNP Referendum: The timetable was reviewed and once we have a start date for the Independent Examination this will be updated and reissued.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: This will be advised in due course.