Bromsgrove District Council
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Bromsgrove District Council

Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended)
Regulation 18 Decision Statement

The Neighbourhood Plan for Wythall Parish ('Wythall Neighbourhood Plan'), 2021-2040

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, local planning authorities have a statutory duty to assist local communities in the preparation of neighbourhood development orders or plans, including the process of a plan or order being independently examined and taken to referendum.

1.2 This decision statement confirms that following an independent examination into the Wythall Neighbourhood Plan, the District Council accepts the examiner's proposed modifications/recommendations, and consequently consider that a modified Neighbourhood Plan be able to proceed to referendum within the designated neighbourhood area.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Following an application by Wythall Parish Council (the 'qualifying body'), a neighbourhood area for the purposes of producing a neighbourhood development plan was designated by Bromsgrove District Council on 15th September 2020. This area is coterminous with the boundaries of Wythall Parish.

2.2 Wythall Parish Council publicised a draft neighbourhood plan for a pre-submission consultation between 10th October and 20th December 2024, in line with Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

2.3 The Wythall Neighbourhood Plan was formally re-submitted by Wythall Parish Council to Bromsgrove District Council in January 2026, in line with Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

2.4 The District Council invited representations on the plan, in line with Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), during a six-week period from 11th February to 26th March 2026. A total of 22 representations on the plan were received during this period.

2.5 Mr David Kaiserman was appointed by the District Council, with the support and agreement of Wythall Parish Council, to undertake an independent examination into the neighbourhood plan as submitted to Bromsgrove District Council. The examination was carried out by written representations based on those received during the Council's statutory (Regulation 16) representation period.

2.6 The examiner's report was received by the District Council and the Parish Council on 24th September 2026. The report concludes that provided the recommendations set out in the report are followed, the Wythall Neighbourhood Plan would meet the basic conditions, and therefore recommends that it should proceed to a referendum, as modified.

3. DECISION

3.1 The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) requires the local planning authority to decide what action to take in response to the recommendations of an examiner made in a report under paragraph 10 of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Act (as applied by Section 38A of the 2004 Act) in relation to a neighbourhood development plan.

3.2 Bromsgrove District Council has considered each of the recommended modifications in the examiner's report, and the reasons for these, and in conjunction with Wythall Parish Council has decided to accept all the proposed modifications to the draft neighbourhood plan. A table setting out a summary of the examiner's modifications is included at Annex 1 to this decision statement. The examiner's full report can be found on the District Council's website at – https://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/council/policy/strategic-planning/neighbourhood-plans/wythall-neighbourhood-plan/.

3.3 The Wythall Neighbourhood Plan will therefore be modified in accordance with the examiner's report, and it is the modified version of the plan that will proceed to referendum.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 This decision statement confirms that Bromsgrove District Council consider the Wythall Neighbourhood Plan 2021-2040, as modified according to the proposed modifications in the examiner's report, to comply with the basic conditions set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as well as legal requirements in Sections 38A and 38B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

4.2 It is therefore recommended that the modified Wythall Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to referendum based on the neighbourhood area of Wythall Parish, as designated in September 2020. The examiner's report considered whether the referendum area should extend beyond the designated area and concluded that it should not.

4.3 This decision statement, and a copy of the examiner's report into the Wythall Neighbourhood Plan, can be viewed online at the following locations:

- Bromsgrove District Council's website at: https://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/council/policy/strategic-planning/neighbourhood-plans/wythall-neighbourhood-plan/

- Wythall Parish Council's website at: https://www.wythall-pc.gov.uk/projects/neighbourhood-plan/

ANNEX 1

Examiner's Report – Summary Table of Recommendations

Examiner's report paragraph	NP reference	Recommendation
50	Figure 3 and paragraph 74	• Delete.
52	General	• Undertake rigorous editing to relocate as much as possible of the background material to appendices. • Make policies easier to find eg using bordered text highlighted in a dedicated colour.
53	Paragraphs 82-96	• Relocate to appendices.
63	Policy WYTHALL 1	• Reword the first part of the policy as suggested. • Include, within the supporting material, direct quotes from BDP25 by way of explanation.
64	Policy WYTHALL 1	• Add the suggested sentence to the preamble to the priority list.
68	Policy WYTHALL 2	• Modify the policy as suggested.
69	Policy WYTHALL 2	• Set out, within the supporting material, the criteria for local connection qualification and their source.
70	Policy WYTHALL 3	• Replace the first two sentences of the policy with the suggested wording.
73	Policy WYTHALL 4	• Simplify the policy with the suggested wording. • Remove para 137 and Tables 4 and 5 to an appendix.
76	Policy WYTHALL 5	• Delete the policy.
80	Policy WYTHALL 7	• Amend the policy as suggested.
82	Policies Map	• Amend the map to identify the LGS sites by their reference numbers.
83	Policy WYTHALL 8	• Replace the first sentence of the policy as suggested.
85	Policy WYTHALL 9	• Reword the policy as suggested.
86	Policy WYTHALL 10	• Replace the policy with the wording suggested.
87	Policy WYTHALL 11	• Rephrase the policy as suggested.