

## SOMPTING NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WITHDRAWAL STATEMENT

In 2017 Sompting Parish Council submitted their Neighbourhood Plan to Adur District Council, who then conducted a statutory public consultation in February – April 2018. Following this, the Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents, alongside all the representations received at consultation, were sent to an independent Examiner, John Slater. An examination hearing was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2018. Mr Slater produced his Post Hearing Notes on the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

At the hearing, the Examiner was made aware that the submitted Neighbourhood Plan was no longer the version of the Plan that the Parish Council wished to pursue and the Parish Council now wished for the Plan to be amended. The Examiner explained that he was required by law to examine the plan as submitted to the LPA and that the extent to which he could make modifications was limited to those required to meet the basic conditions, which could retain policies within the plan that the Parish Council no longer supported. At this juncture, the Parish Council representatives indicated that their preference was to withdraw the submitted plan from examination. The Examiner explained that he could not formally accept their statement of withdrawal as the definitive decision without a formal resolution of the Parish Council. The hearing was adjourned.

An extraordinary Parish Council meeting was held on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018. The Parish Council agreed to formally withdraw the Sompting Neighbourhood Plan. Sompting Parish Council formally notified Adur District Council of their decision to withdraw the Sompting Neighbourhood Plan on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2018 (Appendix 1).

Please contact Sompting Parish Council directly for updates on next steps with Sompting Neighbourhood Plan.

**Parish Clerk:** Carol Stephenson

**Address:** Sompting Parish Council, Old School House, Harriet Johnson Centre, 18 Loose Lane, Sompting, West Sussex, BN15 0BG

**Telephone:** 07813 484857

**Email:** [clerk@sompting.org.uk](mailto:clerk@sompting.org.uk)

Further general information can be found at:

<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/sompting-neighbourhood-plan/>



## Draft Minutes of Extraordinary Full Council meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Meeting commenced at 8.05pm

### Minute

### Action

- 2813 **Attendance:** Cllrs Godley, Baxter, Thornton, Boggis, Nicklen, Glynn Davis, Mansfield  
**Members of the public :-** 0  
**Clerk :** C. Stephenson
- 2814 **Apologies:** Cllrs Mansfield, Baxter, Thornton.  
**Non attendance and no apologies received :** Cllrs Bashford, Smith
- 2815 **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Boggis – ADC Councillor; interest in Adur Local Plan. Noted
- 2816 **Request for DPI Dispensations:** None
- 2817 **Public Participation :** No members of the public were present
- 2818 **Sompting Parish Neighbourhood Plan**  
Cllr Godley advised Members of the outcome of the Hearing with the Examiner on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2018 in relation to the Sompting Neighbourhood Plan. It was recognised that, due to the time taken to prepare and submit that Plan and other factors in the meantime such as the adoption of the Adur Local Plan in 2017, a recent meeting with developers, issues emanating from the Resident Survey etc, the current Neighbourhood Plan may not accurately reflect today's views and needs of Sompting residents. The Examiner was mindful of the points made by Cllrs Godley and Baxter at the Hearing and has allowed the Council some time to reconsider its position. Three options were possible:
- 1) To make some changes to the existing Neighbourhood Plan and allow the Examiner to complete his review based on that document.
  - 2) To withdraw the existing Neighbourhood Plan and not have one for Sompting (this would be an option if it was felt that the Adur Local Plan sufficiently protected the interests, areas and issues of concern in Sompting)
  - 3) To withdraw the existing Neighbourhood Plan and resubmit a revised version, building on much of the content of the current document, adding and deleting some points and bringing it more up to date and in keeping with the current wishes and expectations of the people of Sompting.

Option 3 will require some of the earlier process to be undertaken again including further consultation and community engagement including working with Adur District Council, land owners, developers, WSCC, SDNP etc. There will also be cost implications to undertake this option, although it is understood the Council may be eligible to apply for further grant funding. The Clerk is currently enquiring with Locality.org on this

point. There is also a desire to progress this work as soon as is practical, particularly given the pending Planning applications which may affect Sompting.

**Clerk**

Some councillors queried whether the existing height restriction for new development covered in the existing Plan of a maximum of 3 stories in height will be retained. Cllr Godley felt this and many other points such as transport infrastructure would naturally be reviewed as part of undertaking option 3 to see if they were still relevant and valid considerations, including an environmental impact assessment.

After much discussion the 3 options were put to a vote, the results of which were as follows :

- 1) Option 1 – 1 vote
- 2) Option 2 – 1 vote
- 3) Option 3 – 5 votes

It was therefore **agreed** that Sompting Parish Council would seek to withdraw the existing Neighbourhood Plan and resubmit a new Plan at the earliest opportunity. The Clerk was asked to formally notify Adur District Council of this decision; a communication will be prepared advising residents of this decision and the way forward; applications will be made for any grant funding available to assist in this process. Cllr Godley proposed and Cllr Glynn Davis seconded a contingency sum of £3,000 be set aside by the Council for this process should it be needed. **Agreed.**

**Clerk**

2819

**Date of next meeting :**  
Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed .....  
**Chairman**

Dated .....