

Report from Cookham Neighbourhood Plan (“Plan”) Working Party (“WP”) to Cookham Parish Council Meeting of 5.11.24.

On 4.6.24, Council approved the then attached revised draft of the Plan (with briefs on the C-DP6a and 6b policies to be submitted with it – the ‘Agricultural and Equine brief’) for submission to RBWM for Regulation 16 Consultation and Examination, subject to any further amendments which might be agreed by the WP where mentioned for consideration following the Regulation 14 consultation, representations received, and consequential matters.

Council also delegated to the WP the power to make any further minor amendments and/or to take such other steps as may be appropriate to ensure prompt submission of the draft Plan and its prompt progress through the next stages, consulting Troy as appropriate in the same terms as the resolution of 6.2.24. Council has subsequently approved the instruction of AECOM (at no cost to the Council) to undertake consultation-driven changes for the Design Codes and Guide.

Since my report to Council on 1.10.24, decisions and developments needing report and/or approval are accordingly as follows:

1. The WP has now agreed by email consultation AECOM’s revisions to the Design Guidance and Codes, after AECOM made some changes requested by the WP to their initial draft.
2. At that point, the only remaining area for discussion was certain further minor changes Dick Scarff had asked/been asked to make to the Agricultural and Equine brief. He submitted those on 16 October. The WP agreed them by email consultation.
3. Nothing else remains to be done at this stage. Accordingly the WP is pleased to report that it has agreed the final version of the draft Cookham Neighbourhood Plan, with Design Guidance and Codes, for submission to the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead for Regulation 16 Consultation and for Examination.
4. In the light of the Council’s previous decisions, it is not necessary to re-submit it to Council for (re-)approval. The agreed draft is therefore being sent to RBWM as soon as it tells us how it wants to receive the substantial documentation in question. As promised, a copy of this final version is being circulated to all Councillors before the meeting along with this report.
5. Though there may well be more to do in due course after Regulation 16 Consultation and Examination, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone, past and present, who has worked on this project. To have reached this point without a single vote being cast against adoption of the draft is a considerable achievement which speaks volumes for the cohesion, community spirit and wish to work together of all concerned – as well as for the hard work they have done. Both personally as Chairman of the Working Party since its inception, and now as Chairman of and on behalf of this Council, I am very grateful to all concerned, including especially Nina our Administrator, Jon and his team at Troy and Ben and his team at AECOM.

I ask for approval of this report, the relevant expenditure and the other decisions made and/or actions taken or to be taken by and on behalf of the Working Party.

Bill Perry

27.10.24