



Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan

The Examiner's Report on The Neighbourhood Plan – A Summary

Executive Summary from the Examiner (taken from the Report)

1. Andrew Ashcroft was appointed by South Cambridgeshire District Council in December 2021 to carry out the independent examination of the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan.
2. The examination was undertaken by written representations. The examiner visited the neighbourhood area on 6 December 2021.
3. The Plan includes a range of policies and seeks to bring forward positive and sustainable development in the neighbourhood area. There is a very clear focus on safeguarding local character and providing a context within which new employment development can take place.
4. The Plan has been underpinned by community support and engagement. It is clear that all sections of the community have been actively engaged in its preparation.
5. Subject to a series of recommended modifications set out in the report, the examiner has concluded that the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan meets all the necessary legal requirements and should proceed to referendum.
6. The examiner recommends that the referendum should be held within the neighbourhood area

What does this mean?

Subject to the changes proposed by the examiner being implemented in the plan, it can then progress to referendum. This involves the parishioners of Gamlingay being asked whether they support the plan and to vote on it later this year.

What are the changes?

The examiner identified several changes to be made to the plan (which is normal in the Neighbourhood planning process). In addition to providing alternative wording to some of the policies to make them more specific, two of the policies in the plan were removed: GAM 5 Mill Hill Employment Zone and GAM 7 First School Field Local Green Space. The rationale for removing these policies is explained in full in the examiner's report.

The key wording changes in the other policies include:

- Community facilities policy (GAM6) now specifically states the requirement for an additional adult football pitch.
- Gamlingay character and views – the examiner made some changes to GAM3 and GAM11 to ensure that the essence of Gamlingay's character is protected.
- The Housing policies remain with minor edits (GAM1 and 2).



- The Transport policies (GAM9 & GAM10) have been amended, and the principle of positively improving walking and cycling infrastructure through developer contributions is retained.
- The policy supporting Drove Rd businesses (GAM4) is generally supported.
- Although a cordon for Gamlingay wood has been removed (GAM12), the policy strengthens protection of this SSSI in light of the recent Environment Act (November 2021) – a turning point for nature.
- Views have been further defined by the Examiner's clarification note (02.09.22) – two additional views have been supported for inclusion in the plan.

The Examiner's report and note are publicly available on the South Cambs District Council website and sets out in detail all the Examiner's findings and recommended modifications.

What happens now?

South Cambs District Council has approved they are happy as the Statutory Planning Authority for the plan to progress to referendum once the changes have been made to the plan.

Any questions?

Please contact Kirstin Rayner, Secretary to the Neighbourhood Plan Group

Email: clerk@gamlingay-pc.gov.uk

Tel: (01767)650310

Further information on how the plan has been developed is available on the Gamlingay future website:

<https://gamlingay-future.uk>

The Neighbourhood Plan Team

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