



HASLEMERE TOWN COUNCIL

Allocation of sites in the Haslemere Neighbourhood Plan

BACKGROUND

- In March 2024 Waverley Borough Council (WBC) confirmed that they were in the early stages of preparing a new Local Plan.
- Haslemere Town Council was asked to indicate whether it wished to allocate sites for development. In order to do so the current Haslemere Neighbourhood Plan (HNP) would have to be amended.
- A working party consisting of Cllrs Arrick, Banfield, Keen, Leach and Robini meet in April to discuss the pros and cons of Haslemere Town Council taking on the task of allocating sites and revising the current neighbourhood plan.
- A further meeting was held on 8 May with WBC Planning Policy officers to discuss.
- The working party has weighed up the pros and cons (see table below)

For	Against
If the HNP is less than 5 years old and allocates sites it gives greater protection on the tilted balance argument (WBC doesn't have a 5 year land supply so tilted balance plays a part in decisions) BUT it would have to start preparing and implementing immediately, as our plan is over 5 years old so the tilted balance is still in play.	Current HNP less likely to go out of date as it does not deal with allocation
The community gets involved with making the decisions about housing allocations BUT these decisions and allocations still have to be tested by WBC	Haslemere housing numbers are unknown and Council would be responsible for ensuring the revised HNP conformed with those numbers
	Haslemere is surrounded by several layers of protected green space (Green Belt, AONB & AGLV) with limited opportunity for development, save windfall sites.
	No additional sites brownfield sites are currently known to the Council outside those already known to WBC
	Sites already allocated in the Local Plan Part 1 could still go forward into the new WBC Local Plan
	Cost HTC does not have the expertise to allocate sites so it would have to budget for hiring consultants to do the required work to include Environmental Impact Assessments etc Increase in staffing hours and costs

	There would need to be another referendum on the HNP
	WBC has the staff, resource and expertise to allocate sites, and Haslemere Town Council and residents will be consulted throughout the process

RECOMMENDATION: The responsibility of allocating sites remains with Waverley Borough Council and there be no amendment of the Haslemere Neighbourhood Plan.