

Cheshire West and Chester Council

Making of Darnhall Neighbourhood Plan

Decision Statement published pursuant to Schedule 38A (9) of the Planning Compulsory Purchase Act (as amended by the Localism Act) and Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended)

Darnhall Neighbourhood Plan

- 1.1 Work on the Darnhall Neighbourhood Plan began in 2016, led by a Steering Group on behalf of the Parish Council. Preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan has involved extensive community consultation throughout, with support provided by Cheshire West and Chester Council.
- 1.2 The Darnhall Neighbourhood Area is the same as the parish boundary and was approved and designated on 14 June 2016.
- 1.3 The Plan includes policies relating to four topic areas and objectives including the countryside and environment, residential, commercial and the local economy, recreation and social infrastructure and transport and communications. The Plan's vision for Darnhall is as follows:

"The local character of the area will be preserved as open rural countryside maintained through active farming. Its community facilities and open spaces will benefit people in both our own and neighbouring areas. The environment and wildlife will be conserved and it will be a place where local people can safely live, work, play and enjoy a high quality of life."

- 1.4 The draft Neighbourhood Plan and its supporting documents were formally submitted to Cheshire West and Chester Council in June 2020. Following a seven week period of publicity, an examiner was appointed with the agreement of the qualifying body (Darnhall Parish Council). The plan was then subject to examination and the independent examiner's report was received on 1 February 2021. The report concluded that, subject to a number of modifications, the plan met the required 'basic conditions' and could proceed to referendum.
- 1.5 On 1 March 2021, the Council's Cabinet Member agreed to accept the examiner's recommendations and confirmed that the plan should proceed to referendum.
- 1.6 At the referendum held on 6 May 2021, voters were asked to say 'yes' or 'no' to the prescribed question:

“Do you want Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Darnhall to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”

- 1.7 92.5% of those who voted said ‘yes’ to the plan. The outcome was as follows:

Response	Votes
Yes	74
No	6
Turnout	43%

Making of the Plan

- 2.1 Preparation of the Darnhall Neighbourhood Plan has now progressed through the prescribed stages set out in the regulations with a positive outcome at both independent examination and referendum. The plan now forms part of the statutory development plan for the area. The Parish Council and Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group are to be congratulated on a significant achievement in reaching this stage, which would not have been possible without their hard work and dedication.
- 2.2 The final stage of the preparation process is for the Council to ‘make’ the Plan. At the meeting of the Council’s Cabinet on 11 October 2017 it was agreed that the decision to make a neighbourhood plan be discharged to the Senior Manager – Planning and Strategic Transport. The full report and minutes can be read at <http://cmttpublic.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Clid=983&MId=5184&Ver=4>

Decision

- 3.1 That the Darnhall Neighbourhood Plan be formally made.
- 3.2 The reason for this decision is that the Darnhall Neighbourhood Plan has progressed through the prescribed stages set out in the regulations with a positive outcome at both independent examination and referendum. The Council is now required to make the plan and no reasons exist as to why this should not happen.
- 3.3 The Head of Planning hereby exercises their delegated authority to make the plan.
- 3.4 A copy of this note will be sent to Darnhall Parish Council and anyone who asked to be notified of the decision. The note will also be sent to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Climate Emergency and the local ward councillors.

- 3.5 In accordance with Regulation 19 of the 2012 Regulations, the Council has published the following on its website at:
www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning
- This statement which sets out the decision to make the plan and reasons for it;
 - Details of where the decision document can be inspected.
- 3.6 The final version of the plan and associated documents has also been published on the website.
- 3.7 The documents can be viewed online on computer screens in the following Customer Service Centres by appointment, or libraries during opening hours:
- The Forum, Chester, CH1 2HS;
 - Wyvern House, The Drumber, Winsford, CW7 1AH;
 - Northwich Customer Service Centre, 1 The Arcade, Northwich, CW9 5AS;
 - Ellesmere Port Customer Service Centre, First Floor, Ellesmere Port Library, CH65 0BG; and
 - Frodsham Library and Integrated Services, Princeway, Frodsham, WA6 6RX;
 - Sandiway library, Mere Lane, Cuddington, Northwich, CW8 2NS
 - Winsford Library, High Street, Winsford, CW7 2AS
- 3.8 Please check the Council's website for details prior to visiting in case any additional restrictions are in place.
- <https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/libraries/find-a-library/find-a-library.aspx>
- <https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/contact-us/customer-service-centres/customer-service-centres.aspx>
- 3.9 Further information is also available by contacting;
neighbourhoodplanning@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Charnley', with a long horizontal line extending from the bottom of the signature.

Rob Charnley - Head of Planning
20 May 2021