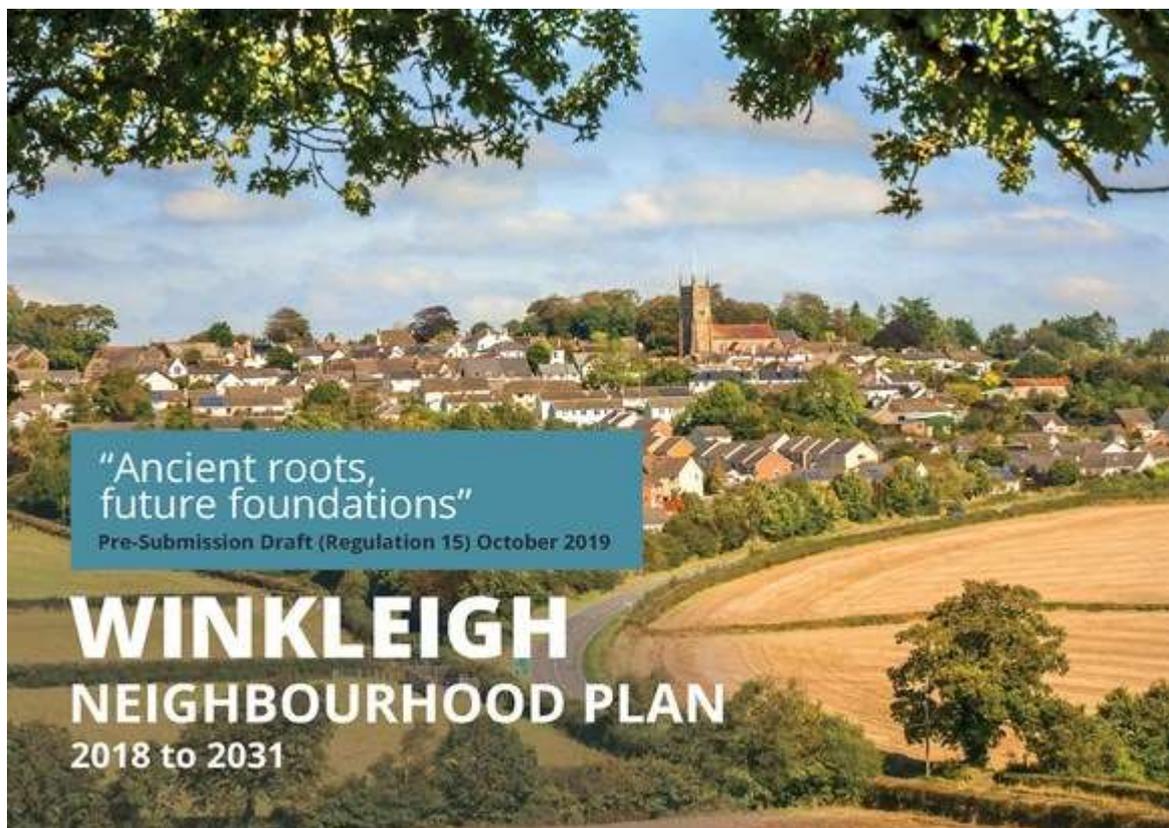




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20 Apr 2020

Winkleigh Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Extended by Two Weeks



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Winkleigh Parish Council are preparing a Neighbourhood Plan, which sets out policies relating to how land is used and developed within the local area. It will form part of the criteria against which any new planning applications will be judged, hence it is required to undergo a number of formal processes to ensure that it is robust and

well-evidenced. This includes an independent examination and a public referendum.

Winkleigh Parish Council have recently submitted the Neighbourhood Plan for examination and it is currently open for a 6 week period of public consultation, which is due to end on the 30th April 2020.

A few days after the commencement of the consultation, the British Prime Minister announced a national lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Library and Council office closures have subsequently impacted the ways in which people can view and comment on the plan, particularly those without access to the internet.

The Government however, is very keen for the planning system to continue to operate during this time in order to support communities and aid recovery. Torridge District Council, alongside Winkleigh Parish Council have made every effort to ensure that anyone who wishes to comment on the Winkleigh Neighbourhood Plan, has been able to do so. The provision of hand delivered paper copies of the plan, to people living in the parish without internet access, is just one such example. However, we do recognise that it is more difficult for people to comment given current restrictions on daily life and Torridge District Council have therefore extended the Winkleigh Neighbourhood Plan consultation by 2 weeks. The consultation on the Plan will now end at **midday on Thursday 14th May 2020.**

Councillor Peter Watson, Torridge Council Lead Member for Planning said:

“The Council is committed to ensuring members of the public continue to have their say on planning issues during this time, and I welcome wholeheartedly the extension of time with regard to the Winkleigh Neighbourhood Plan consultation.

Neighbourhood Plans form an important component of the development plan for the area, and as such, it is vital we get views from all sections of society, some of whom will be currently self isolating or shielding’

Paper copies of the Neighbourhood Plan and comment forms can be requested from Winkleigh Parish Clerk (Mel Bickell) on 01837 89095. The plan can also be viewed

online at

<https://consult.torridge.gov.uk/portal/planning/neighbourhood/winkleigh/winkleigh-np>

Councillor Simon Newton, Torridge Council Ward member for Winkleigh said:

“Given the enormous amount of hard work that has gone into preparing the Winkleigh Neighbourhood Plan, I am very pleased TDC have decided to extend the consultation period during this time of lockdown. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage as many local people as possible to get involved and have their say on this key document for the area’.

Once the consultation period has concluded, an independent examiner will verify that the plan meets the basic standards. The council will then organise a referendum to ensure the community has the final say on whether the Neighbourhood Plan is adopted. People living in the Neighbourhood Plan area who are registered to vote in local elections will be entitled to vote. Due to Government restrictions put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic, the referendum will not take place until after May 2021.

For more information on the Winkleigh Neighbourhood Plan please contact Beth Sachs, Planning Policy Officer at TDC beth.sachs@torridge.gov.uk or Tel 01237 428786

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