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Riverbank House, Bideford, Devon, EX39 2QG



Mrs Melanie Bickell  
Winkleigh Parish Council  
Lower Itton  
Spreyton  
EX17 5BB

**By Email Only**

**Our Ref:** WNP/PEX      **Your Ref:**

**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Mrs Bickell,

**Winkleigh Neighbourhood Plan – Publication of Decision Statement**

I write to formally notify you that, at a meeting of Torrige District Council on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020, the Council resolved, in accordance with the provisions of The Neighbourhood Planning (England) Regulations 2012, to:

1. Accept the recommendations of the Examiner in relation to the Winkleigh Neighbourhood Plan, as set out in the Examiner's Report;
2. Amend the Winkleigh Neighbourhood Plan to include:
  - a. the Proposed Modifications set out by the Examiner in his report;
  - b. the two Additional Changes as previously discussed; and
  - c. any further changes of a minor nature necessary to address typographic, spelling and grammatical errors, adjustment to ensure plan wide consistency of terminology, presentational improvements, factual updates and updated information with regard to the status of the Neighbourhood Plan;
3. agree that the Winkleigh Neighbourhood Plan, as amended, proceeds to referendum, at a date yet to be determined
4. that the geographical area for the referendum be the Winkleigh Neighbourhood Area (Civil Parish of Winkleigh); and
5. Publish the above decisions and associated reasons in a formal Decision Statement.

I can confirm that the formal Decision Statement has now been published and is available to view on the Council's website at: [www.torrige.gov.uk/winkleighnp](http://www.torrige.gov.uk/winkleighnp). As a result of the publication of the Decision Statement I am pleased to note that the Winkleigh Neighbourhood Plan 2018 – 2031 can now be given significant weight in decision-making, so far as the plan is material to the application; in accordance with planning practice guidance (Paragraph: 107 Reference ID: 41-107-20200925) that allows the decision taker apply significant weight once the local planning authority has issued a decision statement detailing its intention to send a neighbourhood plan to referendum.

I have written to planning officers to make them aware of the change in status of the neighbourhood plan and that they should now be affording it weight in decision making. I will be writing to members of the Planning Committee in a similar manner shortly.

In order to comply with our duties to make interested parties aware of the issuing of the formal Decision Statement, could I please ask you to place the attached poster on the parish noticeboard(s) at your earliest convenience. I would also highlight that a formal notice containing the same information will be posted in the North Devon Journal this week. I am also making arrangements to notify those parties who responded to the formal post-submission consultation ('Regulation 16 stage') of the decision.

As you will be aware, due to provisions introduced in response to the coronavirus pandemic, it will not currently be possible to hold the referendum on the neighbourhood plan until after 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021. We will of course keep in touch and keep you apprised of arrangements in due course as further details for the referendum can be established.

May I take this opportunity to once again congratulate the Parish Council and the wider community on reaching this important milestone with the neighbourhood plan; it is an achievement for which you may all be very proud.

It has been a pleasure working with you all on this journey and I look forward to continuing to do so as we move forward in due course on the next steps with the neighbourhood plan.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me if you wish to discuss anything to do with the neighbourhood plan and I will be happy to assist.

Yours sincerely,



**Ian Rowland**

Senior Planning Policy Officer

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Enc.