

The Examiner, Englefield Green Village Neighbourhood Plan
C/o Intelligent Plans and Examinations (IPE) Ltd

Via email (copied to Englefield Green Neighbourhood Forum)

24 May 2023

Dear Mr Stebbing,

Response to Examiner's Questions

Thank you for your preliminary questions for Runnymede Borough Council and Englefield Green Village (EGV) Neighbourhood Forum in your letter dated 12th May 2023 (ref. 01/DA/EGNP) in respect of your examination of the EGV Neighbourhood Plan. As requested, I have published this on the examination website at: www.runnymede.gov.uk/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/4.

I have attached responses on behalf of the Borough Council to two out of four of these questions, which were directed to us to answer, ahead of the deadline for responses. The EGV Neighbourhood Forum will be responding to your questions separately, addressing the points you directed to them. Upon your confirmation, I will also publish this and the EGV Forum response on the examination website.

I am pleased to hear that you are happy at this stage for the EGV Neighbourhood Plan examination to proceed and note that you propose to carry out an unaccompanied site visit w/c 29 May 2023. The Council notes and accepts the reasons to extend the examination timetable.

If you have any further questions that I can assist with, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Stephanie Broadley | Senior Planning Policy Officer
stephanie.broadley@runnymede.gov.uk | T:01932 425273
Encs.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF ENGLEFIELD GREEN VILLAGE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

RUNNYMEDE BOROUGH COUNCIL'S RESPONSES TO THE EXAMINER'S PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS

Response to Question 1: Englefield Green Cemetery

The project described in the 'Englefield Green Placemaking & Movement' report prepared by i-Transport LLP does not form part of any Runnymede Borough Council capital programme or that of Surrey County Council, and no further design work is currently being undertaken separate to the study. No further budgetary provision has been made for the project, including its design, and there is no project timetable for delivery. The Council was first made aware of the project at the Regulation 14 consultation stage when reviewing the evidence base supporting the draft Neighbourhood Plan, and since this time, has considered the project to be purely aspirational at this stage.

Question 2: Non-Designated Heritage Assets

EGV Neighbourhood Forum will respond to this question.

Response to Question 3: Review of the Runnymede 2030 Local Plan

The review of the 2030 Local Plan is not progressing in accordance with the timetable contained in the Local Development Scheme (LDS). On 9 September 2022, a report was presented at Planning Committee¹ setting out officers' views that the Regulation 18 Issues and Options consultation be paused until the implications of the government's proposed revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) are better understood. At the time of writing the report, it was unclear what length of delay to recommend.

Officers intend to take a report to Planning Committee in June 2023 asking for a formal steer for progressing the Local Plan Review. An amended LDS will then be produced and brought back through the Planning Committee, and then approved at Full Council. This timetable is subject to receiving the revised NPPF from the government – expected to be received in Spring 2023.

Question 4: Policy CF2

EGV Neighbourhood Forum will respond to the query about additional use of the playing fields. The Council produced the policies maps on behalf of the Forum, including Map 1 on p61 illustrating the five proposed Local Green Space designations. Unfortunately, an error was made in drawing up the boundaries – in the submitted plan the designations do currently include the school premises and their curtilage. The Council has rectified this error and attaches five larger-scale maps showing the revised boundaries for each of the proposed Local Green Spaces. They now clearly define that the Local Green Space designation would only cover the playing fields and no other part of the school premises or curtilage, as requested. The Council would support a modification to the submission plan to address this error.

¹ Planning Policy Report on 'Review of the Runnymede 2030 Local Plan', available at:
<https://democracy.runnymede.gov.uk/documents/s4318/Review%20of%20the%20Local%20Plan.pdf>