

Cosby Neighbourhood Plan Decision Statement

Summary

1. Following a positive referendum result (on Thursday 24 November 2022), Blaby District Council is publicising its decision to 'Make' the Cosby Neighbourhood Plan part of Blaby District's Development Plan in accordance with Regulation 19 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

Background

2. On 11 October 2019, Blaby District Council approved the Cosby Neighbourhood Area to be designated in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 for the purposes of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. The Area covers the parish of Cosby and Cosby Parish Council is the Qualifying Body in accordance with the legislation.
3. Following the submission of the Cosby Neighbourhood Plan to the Council, the Plan was publicised for a six week period and representations were invited. The consultation period closed on 12 May 2022.
4. Blaby District Council, with the agreement of Cosby Parish Council, appointed an independent examiner, Mr Christopher Collison, to assess whether the Plan met the Basic Conditions required by legislation and so should proceed to referendum.
5. The Examiner's Report concludes that, subject to making the modifications proposed by the Examiner, the Neighbourhood Plan meets the Basic Conditions set out in the legislation and should proceed to a Neighbourhood Plan referendum. The modifications were accepted in full at a meeting of Council on 20 September 2022.

Decisions and Reasons

6. The referendum held on 24 November 2022 met the requirements of the Localism Act 2011. It returned a 'yes' majority of 89% to the question: "Do you want Blaby District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Cosby to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"
7. The results of the referendum were:

Description	Number
Ballot Papers Issued	432
Number cast in favour of a 'Yes'	388
Number cast in favour of a 'No'	44
Reason for ballot papers being rejected	Number of ballot papers rejected
Want of an official mark	0
Voting for more answers than required	0
Writing or mark by which voter could be identified	0
Being marked or wholly void for uncertainty	0
Rejected in part	0

Turnout was 16%.

8. Following the positive referendum outcome, the Blaby East Neighbourhood Plan was 'Made' by Blaby District Council (at a meeting of Council) on 31 January 2023.
9. It is considered that the Plan meets the Basic Conditions set out in paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990; complies with the provision made by or under Sections 38A and 38B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended); and is compatible with EU obligations and Convention obligations (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).
10. The Plan now forms part of the Development Plan for the Cosby Neighbourhood Plan Area that consists of the parish of Cosby. In accordance with Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004), the determination of planning applications in the Cosby Neighbourhood Plan Area will need to be made in accordance with the development plan, being the Local Plan (Core Strategy) Development Plan Document (2013), Local Plan (Delivery) Development Plan Document (2019) and the Cosby Neighbourhood Plan (2023), unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Where to view this Decision Statement

11. This Decision Statement can be viewed on the [Blaby District Council website \(https://www.blaby.gov.uk/planning-and-building/guidance-and-policies/neighbourhood-planning/\)](https://www.blaby.gov.uk/planning-and-building/guidance-and-policies/neighbourhood-planning/) and in person at: Blaby District Council, Council Offices, Desford Road, Narborough, Leicestershire, LE19 2EP. For the latest office opening times, please visit the Council's website or telephone 0116 275 0555.

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