

**EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LOCAL PLAN
COMMITTEE HELD ON 7 NOVEMBER 2016**

91. Adoption of Boxted Neighbourhood Plan

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Commercial Services providing details of the Boxted Neighbourhood Plan.

Karen Syrett, Place Strategy Manager, presented the report and responded to Councillors' questions. Karen explained that, in 2012, the Council had designated the area for the purpose of preparing the Boxted Neighbourhood Plan which included the whole of Boxted Parish.

Extensive consultation had been undertaken to support the development of the Neighbourhood Plan, including a drop-in event attended by 250 people which generated 350 responses and the distribution of a household survey which received 226 responses. The questionnaire informed the following aspects of the plan:

- Housing development at Hill Farm, Boxted Cross;
- Support for appropriate small scale employment in Boxted, including smallholdings;
- Environment should be protected and enhanced through the provision of a new Village Green;
- Improvements to community infrastructure including sports & leisure facilities, open space, a village shop and broadband;
- Highway improvements;
- A Travel Plan to manage traffic issues at the village school.

After an initial Submission Consultation in 2014 the developer/owner of Hill Farm, lodged an appeal against the Council's decision to refuse planning permission to develop the only site being proposed for housing in the Boxted Neighbourhood Plan. The appeal was unsuccessful but required changes to be made to the Plan document to reflect the appeal inspector's comments. The amended document was subject to a second Submission consultation.

The Boxted Neighbourhood Plan was examined during April/May 2016 and, subject to minor amendments, the independent examiner had found that the plan satisfied all the Basic Conditions and recommended that the draft plan proceed to Referendum. The Referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan had been held on 15 September 2016 with 305 (81.5%) in favour of the plan and 69 against.

Members of the Committee acknowledged the work required to bring the Plan to fruition and welcomed the adoption of this and the Myland and Braiswick Neighbourhood Plan which would make Colchester the first Essex authority to adopt Neighbourhood Plans.

RECOMMENDED to Council that, following its approval at examination and referendum, the Boxted Neighbourhood Plan be made (adopted) following which the Plan will become part of Colchester Borough Council's Local Development Plan.