

GREAT HORWOOD PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

EXAMINATION HEARING PROCEDURE

- The Hearing will start promptly at 1.00pm.
- The Hearing is only part of the process of examining the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Neighbourhood Plans are examined against a nationally prescribed set of Basic Conditions. (The relevant Basic Conditions are listed on a separate page)
- The Hearing is being held at the discretion of the Examiner, he has decided the Agenda for the Hearing and who has been invited to participate.
- The public are welcome to attend, but discussion will be restricted to the invited participants.
- The Agenda lists the topic areas relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan that the Examiner wishes to explore orally.
- The Hearing will not consider proposals that are not in the Neighbourhood Plan.
- The Examiner will ask a series of questions on each topic area.
- Typically, the Examiner will, on each topic, put some initial questions to the Parish and/or District Council before widening the discussion.
- There will be no cross-examination.
- Those persons invited to participate in the Hearing should not read out their submitted written representations (the Examiner has read these) but confine themselves to answering the Examiner's questions when invited to do so.
- The Examiner's invitations to answer questions will be limited to matters raised in the participants' submitted representations; this is not an opportunity to raise new points.
- There will be no set time limit for participants to speak but the Examiner will stop discussion if he considers it appropriate to do so.
- Invited participants may attend for just parts of the Hearing but once an Agenda topic has been discussed it will not be returned to.
- The Examiner will decide when there will be breaks in the proceedings.
- Catering arrangements will be explained on arrival at the venue.
- In examining the Neighbourhood Plan the Examiner will consider all the written material that has been submitted including the background evidence documents and the representations of support.
- The submitted written representations have no less weight than those matters discussed orally at the Hearing.
- Following the close of the Hearing the Examiner will write a report on the whole examination of the Neighbourhood Plan. The report will include recommendations on what should happen next:
 - Whether the Plan should proceed to referendum with or without modification
 - If the Plan is recommended for referendum, whether the area for the referendum should be extended beyond the area of the Parish
- If the Plan does go to referendum and receives majority support the District Council will be able to 'make' the Plan so that it becomes part of the development plan for the area.