



Low Coniscliffe and Merrybent Neighbourhood Plan 2018 – 2036

Regulation 19 Decision Statement

In line with Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 this Decision Statement has been prepared to inform people who live, work or carry out business in the Neighbourhood Area that Darlington Borough Council has 'made' (adopted) the Low Coniscliffe and Merrybent Neighbourhood Plan. It now forms part of the statutory Development Plan for the Neighbourhood Area which comprises of Low Coniscliffe and Merrybent parish. Decisions on planning applications must now be made in accordance with policies in the Low Coniscliffe and Merrybent Neighbourhood Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

The neighbourhood plan referendum was held on the 23rd May 2019. The question which was asked was:

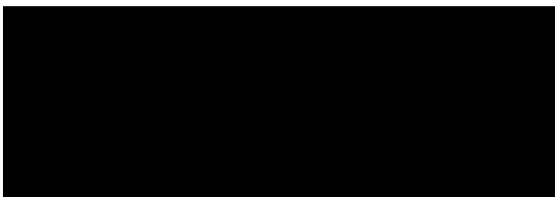
"Do you want Darlington Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Low Coniscliffe and Merrybent to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"

At the referendum there were a total of 227 votes cast with 215 (94.7%) voting in favour and 12 (5.3%) against. This means there has been a majority vote in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan. The electorate for the Parish is 491 giving a turn out of 46.23%.

A detailed legislative framework for undertaking neighbourhood planning was introduced through the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The Low Coniscliffe and Merrybent Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared and is in conformity with these legal requirements. As such the local authority, following the positive vote at referendum, had a duty to adopt the Neighbourhood Plan to form part of the Development Plan for Darlington. This Decision Statement confirms that the Council has formally made the plan.

The independent examiner considered (at page fifteen of his report) that the EU and Human Rights obligations had been met in relation to the production of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The made Neighbourhood Plan is available on the Council's website: www.darlington.gov.uk



Ian Williams
Director of Economic Growth
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