

**Hanley Castle Neighbourhood Plan  
Independent Examination  
Invitation to the Parish Council**

I am writing to let you know that the examination of the Hanley Castle Neighbourhood Plan will formally start on 8 May 2018.

NPIERS, the Neighbourhood Planning Independent Examiner Referral Service, has recently published guidance to service users and examiners. Although I have not been appointed via NPIERS to undertake this examination, I am a member of the NPIERS Panel and consider it appropriate for me to take account of this guidance.

Amongst other matters, the guidance indicates that the qualifying body, in this case, Hanley Castle Parish Council, will normally be given an opportunity to comment upon any representations made by other parties at the Regulation 16 consultation stage should they wish to do so. There is no obligation for the Parish Council to make any comments; it is only if they wish to do so.

If a qualifying body wishes to make comments, the guidance indicates that any such comments should be made within two weeks after close of the Regulation 16 stage.

I am therefore writing to ask whether the Parish Council wish to make any comments on any or all of the representations received at Regulation 16 stage. Should the Parish Council wish to do so, I should be in receipt of any comments by the close of business on Friday 11 May, allowing a little extra time to take account of the bank holiday.

If the Parish Council decides that they will not wish to make any comments, it would be most helpful to receive this confirmation as early as possible.

If I have not received confirmation that the Parish Council do not wish to make any comments or have not received any comments by or on 11 May, I will assume the Parish Council do not wish to make any comments and I will continue with the examination on that basis.

It is important to note that any comments will be in the public domain and published on the local planning authority's website.

Ann Skippers MRTPI  
Independent Examiner, Director Ann Skippers Planning  
25 April 2018