

EAST MEON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REFERENDUM
THURSDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2017

**The experience of another community that
voted YES**

THE MEDSTEAD & FOUR MARKS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN *was adopted by EHDC in May 2016, after two years of incredible work by both village communities, supported by the two Parish Councils and EHDC.*

At referendum there was a 90% + YES vote with a turnout approaching 50%, which is higher than for County or District elections. Our NP is synchronised with the EHDC Local Plan and Housing Allocations.

Both Parishes had been subject to a tide of speculative Planning Applications for a few years, which had led to a 30% increase in dwellings built. The Neighbourhood Plan now sits alongside the Local Plan in defining legal policy of what and where the community accepts housing development.

Since adoption the Neighbourhood Plan has been referenced by Planning Appeal Inspectors on three separate occasions to dismiss applicants' plans, which were pure speculation and inappropriate housing development.

Importantly the NP defines also what we as Village communities have agreed we want as our future frameworks related to economic development and employment, shops and village centres, community facilities, and wildlife and environmental protection.

Our NP was hard work but well worth it so far.

Cllr Simon Thomas
Four Marks Parish Council
October 2017