
Information Statement

This information statement is about the referendum to be held on the
Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan

About town and country planning

In England, planning applications are determined by local planning authorities such as Dorset Council. Planning decisions are made in accordance with the adopted development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. A development plan sets out the planning policies for the development and use of land.

The [adopted Local Plan for West Dorset](#) is therefore the starting point for considering planning applications at the current time. The [national planning policy framework](#) must be taken into account in the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans, and is a material consideration in planning decisions.

Our [Local Development Scheme](#) contains information on development plan documents that are being prepared.

About neighbourhood planning and the Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan

Neighbourhood planning aims to help local communities play a direct role in planning the areas in which they live and work. In parished areas such as Allington, Bothenhampton & Walditch, Bradpole, Bridport and Symondsbury the Town or Parish Council is responsible for preparing a neighbourhood plan. The plan can show how the community wants land to be used and developed in its area. If a plan is made following a successful referendum, it becomes part of the development plan for that area.

Bridport Town Council representing the communities of Allington, Bothenhampton & Walditch, Bradpole, Bridport & West Bay and Symondsbury started preparing their neighbourhood plan in 2014. After much research, and having listened to the various issues and suggestions made through various consultation events, a draft plan was produced for consultation in July 2018. The plan was then revised in response to the consultation and submitted to Dorset Council in May 2019.

Deborah McCann was appointed as an Independent Examiner for the Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan, and in October 2019 she produced her [report](#) confirming that she was satisfied that the plan meets the basic conditions and recommended that it should, subject to some changes, proceed to referendum.

Dorset Council considered each of the recommendations and modifications contained in the examiner's [report](#) and agreed the amendments in an Executive Decision Statement 27 November 2019. Dorset Council issued its [decision](#) which was in agreement with the examiner's findings with two exceptions relating to Policy H3, and that the [plan as modified](#) should proceed to referendum.

What the referendum is deciding

The question which will be asked in the referendum is:

“Do you want Dorset Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Bridport Area to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”

The referendum asks you to vote yes or no to this question.

When and where the referendum will be held

The referendum will be held on **Thursday 27th February 2020**.

What is the area covered by the referendum?

The referendum area and the area covered by the neighbourhood plan are the parishes of Allington, Bothenhampton & Walditch, Bradpole, Bridport and Symondsburry.

Who is entitled to vote?

You are entitled to vote in the referendum if you live in the referendum area, you are on the electoral register to vote in local council elections and you are 18 years of age or over on 27 February 2020.

You have to be registered to vote by Tuesday, 11 February 2020 to vote in the referendum. You can check if you are registered to vote by telephoning 01305 838299 during normal office hours.

How can people vote?

The referendum will be conducted in accordance with procedures which are similar to those used at local government elections.

You can vote in person at the polling stations which are at:

- St Swithuns Vestry Extension, North Allington, Bridport
- Bridport Youth & Community Centre, Gundry Lane, Bridport
- The Salt House, Quayside, West Bay
- Symene Sports Club, Duck Street, Symondsburry
- Eype Schoolroom, Mount Lane, DT6 6AP
- Bothenhampton Village Hall, Main Street, DT6 4BJ
- Walditch Village Hall, The Green, DT6 4LB
- Forster Memorial Hall, Higher Street, Bradpole
- Mountfield (Committee Room), Rax Lane, Bridport
- Bridport United Church (Inner Hall), East Street, Bridport

We will issue poll cards to voters on 07 February 2020. The polling station will be open from 7am to 10pm on 27 February 2020.

To vote by post or proxy in this referendum, you will need to have filled in an application form and sent it to the Electoral Registration Officer. Postal and proxy vote application forms are

available online from the elections website <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/councillors-committees-elections/elections-and-voting/ways-you-can-vote.aspx> or by contacting the council.

Applications to vote by post must be received by no later than 5pm on Wednesday, 12 February 2020. To vote by proxy, application forms should be received by no later than 5pm on Wednesday, 12 February 2020. However in certain circumstances emergency proxy vote applications can be received up until 5pm on Wednesday 19th February 2020. Anyone can be your proxy as long as they are eligible to vote and are willing to vote on your behalf. You will have to tell them how you want to vote.

Ballot papers for people who vote by post will be posted from 14th February 2020, and will need to be returned by 10pm on the day of the poll.

Map of the referendum area



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Referendum expenses

The referendum expenses limit that will apply in relation to the referendum is £2,362 plus £0.059 per registered elector (the electorate in February 2020 was 12,648).

What information is there available about the neighbourhood plan?

A copy of the specified documents, that is the documents listed below, may be inspected at the following council offices:

- **Dorset Council offices**, South Walks House, South Walks Road, Dorchester DT1 1UZ which is open 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Thursday and 8.30am to 4.30pm on Fridays.
- **Bridport Town Council offices**, Mountfield, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3JP
- **Bridport Library**, South Street, Bridport DT6 3NY

The specified documents are:

- A **summary of representations** submitted to the examiner
- The **examiner's report**
- The **Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan** (as proposed)
- The **decision statement**, which includes a statement by the local planning authority that the plan as proposed meets the basic conditions
- This **information statement**, which includes general information as to town and country planning including neighbourhood planning and the referendum

All of the above documents can be viewed on the council's website:

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/bridport-area-neighbourhood-plan>

The Joint Council Committee also intends to ensure copies of these documents are available locally.

The adopted Local Plan for West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland	https://www.dorsetforyou.com/jointlocalplan/west/weymouth
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/810197/NPPF Feb 2019 revised.pdf
Local Development Scheme (LDS)	https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/dorset-council-local-plan/evidence/dorset-council-lds-250619.pdf
Independent Examiner's Report	www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/west-dorset-and-weymouth-portland/neighbourhood-planning/pdfs/neighbourhood-plan/bridport/examination/final-banp-report.pdf
Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan Decision Statement	www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/west-dorset-and-weymouth-portland/neighbourhood-planning/pdfs/neighbourhood-plan/bridport/post-examination/bridport-decision-statement.pdf
Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan (as modified)	www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/west-dorset-and-weymouth-portland/neighbourhood-planning/pdfs/neighbourhood-plan/bridport/post-examination/banp-referendum-version-web-final-251119.pdf