

# STURMINSTER NEWTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2016 - 2031

## Information Statement

This information statement is about the referendum to be held on the Sturminster Newton Neighbourhood Plan 2016 - 2031.

### **About town and country planning**

In England, planning applications are determined by local planning authorities such as North Dorset District 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 North Dorset](#)<sup>1</sup> is therefore the starting point for considering planning applications at the current time. The [national planning policy framework](#)<sup>2</sup> 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](#)<sup>3</sup> contains information on development plan documents that are being prepared.

---

### **About neighbourhood planning and the Sturminster Newton Neighbourhood Plan 2016 - 2031**

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 Sturminster Newton, the Town 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.

Sturminster Newton Town Council started preparing its 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 November 2016.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/north-dorset/the-north-dorset-local-plan/the-north-dorset-local-plan.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/740441/National\\_Planning\\_Policy\\_Framework\\_web\\_accessible\\_version.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/740441/National_Planning_Policy_Framework_web_accessible_version.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/north-dorset/additional-planning-policy-documents/local-development-scheme.aspx>

January 2019

The plan was then revised in response to the consultation and submitted to North Dorset District Council in September 2017. Mr Terry Kemmann-Lane JP DipTP FRTPI MCMI was appointed as an independent Examiner for the Sturminster Newton Neighbourhood Plan, and in November 2018 he produced his [report<sup>4</sup>](#) confirming that he was satisfied that the plan meets the basic conditions and recommended that it should, subject to some modifications, proceed to referendum.

North Dorset District Council considered the report on 14 January 2019 and issued its decision which was in agreement with the examiner's findings, 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 North Dorset District Council to use the neighbourhood plan for the parish of Sturminster Newton to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'

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

---

## When the referendum will be held

The referendum will be held on **Thursday 21 February 2019**.

---

## What is the area covered by the referendum?

The referendum area and the area covered by the neighbourhood plan is the Parish of Sturminster Newton.

---

## 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 21 February 2019.

You have to be registered to vote by Tuesday 5 February 2019 to vote in the referendum. You can check if you are registered to vote by telephoning **01305 838299** during normal office hours.

---

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/north-dorset/neighbourhood-planning/submitted-plans/pdfs/stur/examination/sturminster-newton-np-examiners-final-report-26-11-18-redacted.pdf>

## 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 station at **The Exchange**, Old Market Hill, Sturminster Newton, DT10 1FH. We will issue poll cards to voters around 18 January 2019. The polling station will be open from **7am to 10pm on 21 February 2019**.

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 from the elections website [dorsetforyou.gov.uk/how-to-vote](http://dorsetforyou.gov.uk/how-to-vote) or by contacting the District Council.

Applications to vote by post must be received by 5pm on Wednesday 6 February 2019.

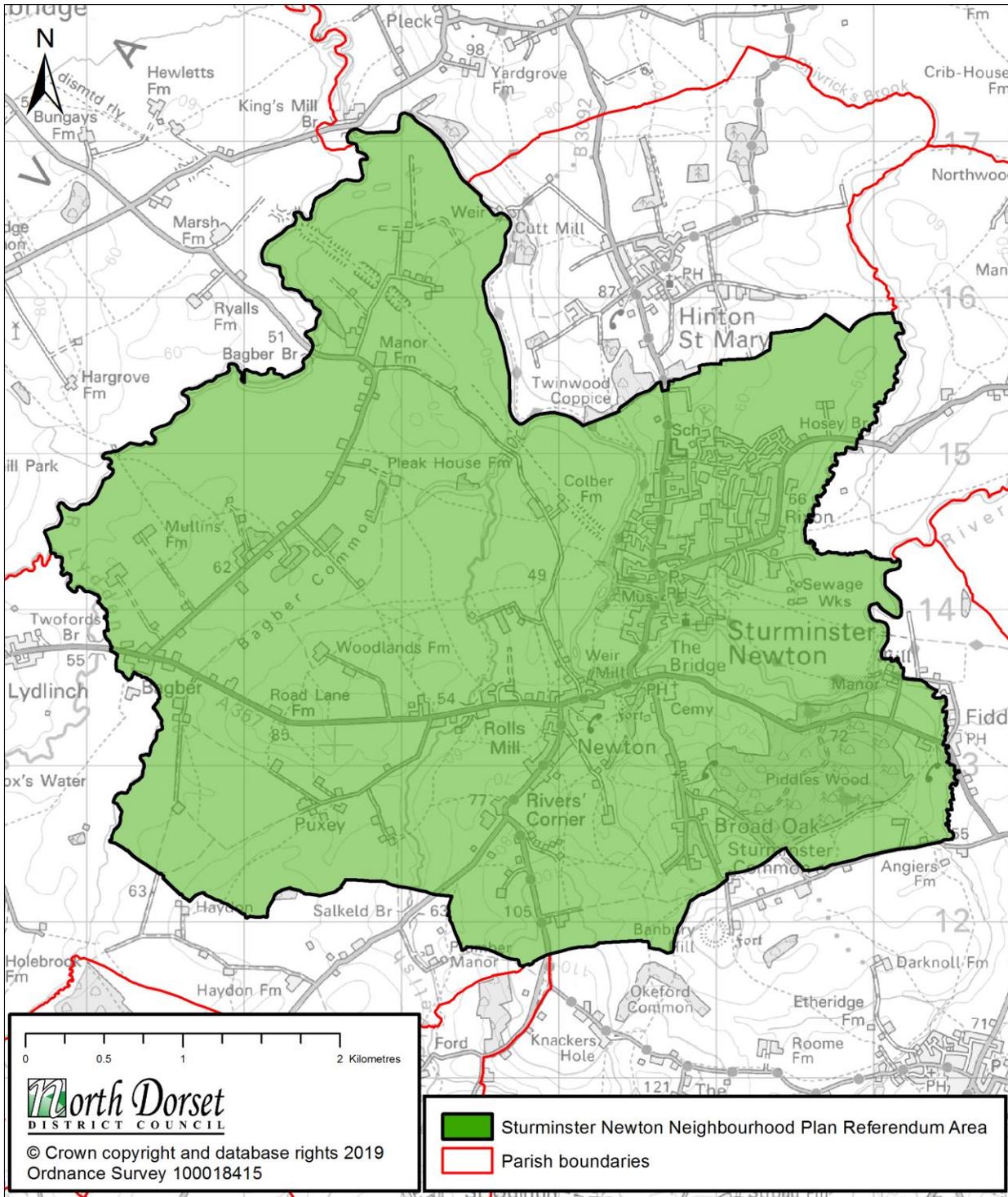
To vote by proxy, application forms should be received by 5pm on Wednesday 13 February 2019.

However, in certain circumstances emergency proxy vote applications can be received up until 5pm on the 21 February 2019. 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 6 February 2019 and will need to be returned by 10pm on the day of the Poll, 21 February 2019.

---

# Map of the Referendum Area



## Referendum expenses

The referendum expenses limit that will apply in relation to the referendum is £2,362 plus £0.59 per registered elector (the electorate in January 2019 is 3,381).

---

## 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 locations:

- **North Dorset District Council offices**, South Walks House, South Walks Road, Dorchester DT1 1UZ which is open Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm, and Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm.
- **Town Council Offices**, Old Market Hill, Sturminster Newton, DT10 1FH which are open Monday to Friday 9.30am - 12.30pm.
- **Sturminster Newton Library**, Bath Road, Sturminster Newton, DT10 1EH which is open on Monday 9.30am to 12.30pm and 12.30pm to 2.30pm, Tuesday 2pm to 5pm, Thursday 9.30am to 12.30pm and 2pm to 6.30pm, Friday 2pm to 5pm, and Saturday 9am to 12.30p. The library is closed Wednesday and Sunday.

The specified documents are:

- A **Summary of Representations** submitted to the examiner
- The **Examiner's Report**
- The **Sturminster Newton Neighbourhood Plan 2016 - 2031** (as modified as a result of the examination)
- The **Decision Statement**, which includes a statement by the local planning authority that the draft plan 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:

[Sturminster Newton Neighbourhood Plan 2016 - 2031<sup>5</sup>](https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/north-dorset/neighbourhood-planning/submitted-plans/sturminster-newton-neighbourhood-plan-2016-2031.aspx)

---

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/north-dorset/neighbourhood-planning/submitted-plans/sturminster-newton-neighbourhood-plan-2016-2031.aspx>