

REFERENDUM ON THE NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR POLESWORTH
EXPLANATORY INFORMATION STATEMENT FOR VOTERS & GENERAL INFORMATION STATEMENT
ON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS

On Thursday 20 March 2025, a referendum will take place on the Polesworth Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). The NDP has been produced by Polesworth Parish Council as the 'Qualifying Body' entitled to produce such a plan.

Referendum Question

You will be invited to vote yes or no to the following question:

'Do you want North Warwickshire Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Polesworth to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'

Who is eligible to Vote?

You are eligible to vote if you satisfy all of the following:

- You are registered to vote in local council elections
- The address at which you are registered to vote in a local council election, as shown in the register of electors, is in the referendum area (see attached map), provided you are entitled to be registered at the address.
- You are 18 years of age or over on the day of the referendum

To vote in the referendum you must be registered to vote by 4 March 2025. If you are already on the register of electors, then you don't need to re-register.

The referendum will be conducted based on procedures that are similar to those used at local government elections.

How to Vote

Just like at all elections, you will need to bring Photographic ID with you to vote in person.

Put a cross (X) in the box next to the answer of your choice on your ballot paper. Vote once only. Do not mark the ballot paper in any other way, or your vote may not be counted.

In this referendum, if more people vote yes than no, North Warwickshire Borough Council will 'make' the Neighbourhood Plan and it will become part of the Borough Plan for North Warwickshire, used by the Council in determining planning applications in the Neighbourhood Plan Area.

Referendum expenses

Expenses can be incurred by an individual or body during the period of the referendum for referendum purposes only.

The referendum expenses limit that will apply in regard to this referendum is £2,362 plus £0.059 per local government elector entitled to vote. The number of persons entitled to vote in this referendum will be determined by 14 March 2025. For more information, please contact the Electoral Services Team.

Specified Documents

There are a number of documents that may help you to make your decision on whether to vote yes or no. These are referred to in the regulations as 'specified documents'.

The specified documents are as follows:

- The Referendum version of the Neighbourhood Plan for Polesworth (i.e. as
- modified to accord with the recommendations of the Independent Examiner and
- where relevant, additional modifications / amendments by the Local Planning
- Authority)
- Report of the Independent Examiner
- Summary of consultation responses that were submitted to the Independent
- Examiner.
- Decision statement by North Warwickshire Borough Council that the NDP meets
- 'basic conditions' (as explained below)
- This general information statement for voters and on neighbourhood plans.

Basic Conditions

To proceed to referendum a neighbourhood plan must meet all of the following conditions:

- Has regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the
- Secretary of State.
- Has special regard to the desirability of preserving any listed building or its setting or
- any features of special architectural or historic interest that it possesses.
- Has special regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or
- appearance of any conservation area.
- The plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.
- The Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies
- contained in the adopted Development Plan for North Warwickshire.
- The making of the Neighbourhood Plan does not breach, or is otherwise compatible
- with, European Union (EU) obligations

Further information

For any further information about voting and arrangements for the referendum contact the following: The Counting Officer, C/O Democratic Services, North Warwickshire Borough Council, South Street, Atherstone, CV9 1DE

Via email to democraticservices@northwarks.gov.uk Or by phone on 01827719222

General Background Note on Neighbourhood Planning

Neighbourhood planning was introduced by the Localism Act 2011. It enables Parish/Town Council's and local communities to prepare a neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) which can shape development and growth in their local area. The body that undertakes to prepare a NDP is known as

the 'Qualifying Body' which in this case is Polesworth Parish Council. If adopted the NDP will become part of the adopted borough wide development plan and will be used to assist North Warwickshire Borough Council in making decisions on planning applications.

A NDP is intended to be community led and should contain policies to guide the future use and development of land within the defined 'Neighbourhood Area'. The NDP must meet specified 'basic conditions' as described earlier in this information statement, including that it must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and be in general conformity with policies of the adopted Borough Plan for North Warwickshire.

Neighbourhood Area

The Neighbourhood Area is the geographic area that the NDP relates to. It can relate to single streets or large urban or rural areas. The boundary is put forward by the Qualifying Body when applying to the council for formal designation of a neighbourhood area. In this case the area is defined in the attached plan.

Referendum Area

The referendum area is identical to the area designated as the Polesworth Neighbourhood Area.

Adopted Local Plan

Planning applications are determined by the Local planning Authority in accordance with the development plan. This comprises a suite of documents that set out the policies for the development and use of land across the whole of the local authority area. A NDP that achieves more yes votes than no votes in the referendum is then adopted ('made'), by the Council as part of the adopted local plan.

Ways to vote

There are 3 ways to vote:

1) In person at your local polling station on the day of the referendum.

- You will receive a poll card confirming your polling station
- If you do not receive a poll card by 20 February 2025 you can contact the Council's helpline 01827719222 or email democraticservices@northwarks.gov.uk
- Polling stations are open from **7.00am to 10.00pm on Thursday 20 March 2025**

2) By Post:

- If you have an existing postal vote arrangement set up for normal elections then you will receive a letter confirming this.
- If you want to vote by post you will need to complete an application form and send it to democraticservices@northwarks.gov.uk
- The deadline for new applications to vote by post for this referendum is **5pm on 5 March 2025**.
- You should receive your postal vote about a week or so prior to polling day. If it does not arrive in time, you can request a replacement up to 5pm on Thursday 20 March by contacting 01827719222.

By proxy

- If you can't get to the polling station and don't wish to vote by post you may be able
- to vote by proxy by allowing someone you trust to vote on your behalf.
- To vote by proxy you need to complete an application form and send it to
- democraticservices@northwarks.gov.uk by **5pm on 12 March 2025** at
- When you apply for a proxy vote you must say why you cannot vote in person
- Anyone can be your proxy provided they are eligible to vote and willing to vote on
- your behalf.