Reg 4(3)(a) Information Statement Reg 4(3)(b)(v) General Information



HORNINGLOW & ETON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN REFERENDUM

INFORMATION FOR VOTERS AND GENERAL INFORMATION ON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLANS









About this booklet

On 5th March 2015, there will be a referendum on a neighbourhood development plan (usually known as the Neighbourhood Plan) for your area. The Neighbourhood Plan has been produced by Horninglow & Eton Parish Council. This booklet explains more about the referendum that is going to take place and how you can take part in it. In this booklet you can find out about:

- The referendum and how you can take part;
- Where to find help in making your decision; and
- General information on neighbourhood plans and how they fit in to the 'development plan' for the whole of East Staffordshire Borough.

Referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan

A referendum asks you to vote 'yes' or 'no' to a question. For this referendum you will receive a ballot paper with this question:

Do you want East Staffordshire Borough Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Horninglow & Eton to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?

How do I vote in the referendum?

You vote by putting a cross (X) in the 'Yes' or 'No' box on your ballot paper. Put a cross in only **one** box or your vote will not be counted.

If more people vote 'yes' than 'no' in this referendum, then East Staffordshire Borough Council will use the Neighbourhood Plan to help it decide planning applications in Horninglow & Eton. It will become part of the Development Plan for the Borough (see below).

If more people vote 'no' than 'yes', then planning applications will be decided without using the Neighbourhood Plan as part of the Development Plan for the local area.

Can I vote?

You can vote in the referendum if:

- 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 map below), (assuming that you are entitled to be registered at this address); and
- You are 18 years of age or over on 5 March 2015

You have to be registered to vote by 17 February 2015 to vote in the referendum. You can check if you are registered to vote by calling our Helpline on 01283 508376.

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

Ways of voting

There are three ways of voting:

1) In person on 5TH March 2015:

- At your local polling station. It is easy and a member of staff will always help if you are not sure what to do
- In Horninglow & Eton parish the polling stations are: Carver Road Community Centre, Carver Road, Burton upon Trent, St Chad's Centre, Hunter Street, Burton upon Trent & Horninglow Primary School, Horninglow Road North, Burton upon Trent
- You will receive a poll card confirming your polling station for this referendum
- If you do not receive your poll card, you can contact our Helpline on 01283 508376 or e mail us on <u>elections@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk</u> to find out if you are included on the register and to find out where your polling station is
- Polling stations are open from 7am to 10pm

2) By post:

- If you have a postal vote already, you will receive a poll card confirming this.
- If you want to vote by post, you will need to complete an application form and send it to the Electoral Registration Officer to arrive by 5pm on Wednesday 18th February 2015 at this address:

East Staffordshire Borough Council PO Box 8045 Burton upon Trent DE14 9JG

- Postal votes can be sent overseas but you need to think about whether you will have time to receive and return your completed postal vote by 5th March 2015.
- You should receive your postal vote about a week before polling day. If it doesn't arrive in time, you can ask for a replacement up to 5pm on 5th March 2015 by contacting our Helpline on 01283 508376

3) By proxy:

- If you have a proxy vote already, you will receive a poll card confirming this.
- 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. This means allowing somebody that you trust to vote on your behalf.
- If you want to vote by proxy, you will need to complete an application form and send it to the Electoral Registration Officer to arrive by 5pm on Wednesday 25th February 2015 at this address:

East Staffordshire Borough Council PO Box 8045 Burton upon Trent DE14 9JG

- When you apply for a proxy vote, you must say why you cannot vote in person
- 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.

 Postal and proxy vote application forms are available from our Helpline on 01283 508376 or emailing <u>elections@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk</u>.

Am I registered to vote?

If you're not registered, you won't be able to vote. You can check if you are registered by calling our Helpline on 01283 508376 or emailing elections@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk

If you are not registered to vote, you can do this by going on line at: www.gov.uk/registertovote. The last date you can register for this election is: Tuesday 17 February 2015. If you are unable to register yourself on line, call the elections helpline: 01283 508376 & the staff can do this for you. You will need to provide your date of birth and national insurance number when you register.

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 relation to this Referendum is £8826.04 The number of persons entitled to vote in the Referendum by reference to which the limit has been calculated is 10956.

Helping You Make a Decision on How You Vote

You are reading one of a number of documents (the Regulations call them 'specified documents') that will help you to make a decision on how to vote. A copy of all these 'specified documents' may be inspected at:

- St Chads Community Centre, Hunter Street, Burton upon Trent
- Horninglow Primary School, Horninglow Road, Burton upon Trent
- Carver Road Community Centre, Carver Road, Burton upon Trent
- Dean and Smedley Pharmacy, Horninglow Road, Burton upon Trent
- Scientia Academy, Mona Road, Burton upon Trent
- St Thomas Methodist Church, Mona Road, Burton upon Trent
- St John the Divine Parish Rooms, Rolleston Road, Burton upon Trent
- The Customer Service Centre, Market Place, Burton upon Trent DE14 1HA; (Monday to Saturday between 8.30am and 6pm – 8pm on Thursdays, 4.30pm on Saturdays) and
- Burton upon Trent Library, Riverside, Burton upon Trent DE14 1AH (Monday to Saturday 9am (9.45am on Wednesdays) to 5pm (6pm on Thursdays)

The 'specified documents' are:

- Notice of Referendum;
- Draft Neighbourhood Plan itself;
- Report of the Independent Examiner;
- Summary of the representations submitted to the independent examiner;

 Decision Statement by East Staffordshire Borough Council that the Draft Plan meets the 'Basic Conditions' (see below). This also lists all the Examiner's modifications to the Plan, whether or not the Council agrees with them, and why they need to be made; and This Information for Voters and General Information on Neighbourhood Plans document

All the above documents can be viewed on East Staffordshire Borough Council's website:

http://www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/neighbourhood-plans/horninglow-eton

The 'Basic Conditions'

The Neighbourhood Plan must meet all the following conditions if it is to be considered for Referendum:

- 1. Complies with national policy and guidance from Secretary of State
- 2. Contributes to sustainable development
- 3. General conformity with the strategic policy of the development plan (East Staffordshire BC's Local Plan plus Staffordshire County Council Minerals and Waste Local Plans) for the area or any part of that area
- 4. Does not breach or is otherwise compatible with EU obligations this includes the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive of 2001/42/EC
- 5. Where development in the Plan is Environmental Impact Assessment development (specific types of development likely to have major environmental impacts set out in Regulations), having regard to all material considerations it is appropriate that the Neighbourhood Plan include a policy on it. (Schedule 3 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 Reg 33).
- 6. The making of the Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species regulations 2010(d) or a European offshore marine site (as defined in the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) regulations 2007 9(e) (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects

How to find out more:

 You can find specific documents on the Horninglow & Eton Neighbourhood Plan at:

http://www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/neighbourhood-plans/horninglow-eton

• For more information about voting and the arrangements for this referendum please contact our Helpline on 01283 508376 or email elections@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk

GENERAL INFORMATION ON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS

What is the Development Plan?

In East Staffordshire, the Development Plan currently consists of the Local Plan 2006 saved policies and the Minerals and Waste Local Plans produced by Staffordshire County Council. The Council is preparing a new Local Plan which has been submitted to the Secretary of State. This will supersede the 2006 Local Plan as part of the Development Plan.

What is Neighbourhood Planning?

Neighbourhood planning aims to help local communities play a direct role in planning for the areas in which they live and work.

A Parish Council is responsible for preparing a Neighbourhood Plan in East Staffordshire. This plan can show how the community wants land to be used and developed in its area. In this case, the Horninglow & Eton Neighbourhood Development Plan was prepared by Horninglow & Eton Parish Council.

Neighbourhood Planning in Horninglow & Eton

The Referendum area is identified on the map below as the parish area of Horninglow & Eton Parish Council and is identical to the area which has been designated as the Horninglow & Eton Neighbourhood Area.

Further general information on neighbourhood planning is available at:

http://www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk/Planning/PlanningPolicy/NeighbourhoodPlanning/Pages/default.aspx

For queries about planning issues and Neighbourhood Planning in general please contact the Neighbourhood Planning Policy Officer, Corinne O'Hare:

neighbourhoodplanning@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk

or phone 01283 508645

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