

# PLYMPTON ST MARY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REFERENDUM – 2 MAY 2019

Information statement and information for voters



A Referendum on the Plympton St Mary Neighbourhood Plan will be held on **Thursday 2 May 2019**.

This information statement explains more about the Referendum that will be taking place.

## **The question to be asked at the Referendum will be:**

*"Do you want Plymouth City Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Plympton St Mary to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"*

You vote by putting a cross (X) in the 'Yes' or 'No' box on the ballot paper.

If more people vote 'yes' than 'no' in the Referendum, then Plymouth City Council will use the Plympton St Mary Neighbourhood Plan to help it to decide planning applications within Plympton St Mary.

The Neighbourhood Plan once adopted will then become part of the Development Plan used by the Local Planning Authority (Plymouth City Council).

If more people vote 'no' than 'yes', in this Referendum or there is a tied vote, then planning applications will continue to be decided without reference to the Neighbourhood Plan as part of the Development Plan for the local area.

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

## **What is neighbourhood planning?**

Neighbourhood planning was introduced under the Localism Act 2011 to give local communities more control in the planning of their neighbourhoods. It introduced new rights and powers to allow local communities to shape new development in their local area. It enables communities to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and deliver the sustainable development they need.

## **What is a neighbourhood area?**

A neighbourhood area can cover single streets or large urban or rural areas. The boundaries of a neighbourhood area are put forward by:

- Town or parish councils, or
- A neighbourhood forum (in areas without a town or parish council)

## **What is a Development Plan?**

In England, planning applications are determined by local planning authorities in accordance with the development plan. A development plan is a set of documents that set out the policies for the development and use of land for a given area.

## **Plympton St Mary Neighbourhood Area**

The Referendum area is identified as the Plympton St Mary Neighbourhood Plan area, which is the same as the Plympton St Mary electoral ward. The map can be viewed in the neighbourhood plan document.

### **Referendum campaign costs**

An individual or body can incur costs during the period of the Referendum for the purposes of campaigning in association with the Referendum.

The Referendum expenses limit that will apply to the Plympton St Mary Neighbourhood Area is calculated using the formula  $£2,362 * (0.059 \times N)$  where N is number of entries in the relevant register;

With 10,067 electors entitled to vote in the Referendum, the expenses limit for this referendum is £2955.95.

### **Specified documents**

The following specified documents can be inspected on the Council's website at <https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/plymptonstmaryneighbourhoodplan> or during opening hours at the following venues:

- Plympton Library, Harewood, Plympton, Plymouth, PL7 2AS
- Plymouth Council House, Armada Way, Plymouth, PL1 2AA

### **The specified documents are:**

- Plympton St Mary Neighbourhood Plan 2015 to 2034 (as amended)
- Report of the Independent Examiner
- Summary of the representations submitted to the Independent Examiner
- A statement by the local planning authority that the draft plan meets the basic conditions (Decision Statement)
- Information Statement and Information for Voters (this document)

### **Who can vote?**

A person is entitled to vote if at the time of the Referendum, they meet the eligibility criteria to vote in a local election for the area and if they live in the Referendum area. The eligibility criteria are:

You are registered to vote in local government elections on 2 May, 2019; and

- You are 18 years of age or over on 2 May 2019
- If you are not registered, you won't be able to vote. You can check if you are registered by calling our Helpline on 01752 304866.

If you are not registered to vote, you can go online to [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) with your national insurance number by midnight on 12 April 2019. If you do not have access to the internet please call our helpline on 01752 304866 during office hours making sure that you allow sufficient time to complete and return an application form by 12 April 2019.

## How to vote

There are three ways of voting:

### 1. In person

- On Wednesday 2 May 2019 at your local polling station.
- You will receive a poll card confirming your polling station for this Neighbourhood Planning Referendum.
- 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 Monday 15 April at the address below. Application forms are available here <https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/votingandelections/votepost> or you can call our helpline on 01752 304866 or email [elections@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:elections@plymouth.gov.uk) to request an application form.
- 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 2 May 2019.
- If it doesn't arrive in time, you can ask for a replacement up to 5.00pm on 2 May 2019 by contacting our helpline 01752 304866.

### 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 address below to arrive by 5.00pm on Wednesday 24 April 2019.
- Application forms are available <https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/votingandelections/voteproxy> or you can call our helpline on 01752 304866 or email [elections@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:elections@plymouth.gov.uk) to request an application form.

## How to find out more

Further general information on neighbourhood planning is available at:

<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/planningandbuildingcontrol/localismandneighbourhoodplanning>

For queries about planning issues and neighbourhood planning in general, please contact the City Planning Team on 01752 305477 or e-mail [planningpolicy@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@plymouth.gov.uk)

You can find specific documents on the Plympton St Mary Neighbourhood Plan at

<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/plymptonstmaryneighbourhoodplan>

For more information about voting and the arrangements for this Neighbourhood Planning Referendum, please contact our Helpline on 01752 304866 or email: [elections@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:elections@plymouth.gov.uk)