



Binfield Neighbourhood Plan Information Statement

This statement has been prepared to meet regulation
4(3)(a) of the Neighbourhood
Planning (Referendum) Regulations 2012 (as amended)

About this Leaflet

On 3 March 2016 residents in Binfield Parish will have the opportunity to vote in a referendum on the published proposal for their neighbourhood plan.

This document explains the referendum that is going to take place and how you can take part in it.

What are Neighbourhood Plans?

Neighbourhood planning was introduced under the Localism Act 2011. It aims to help local communities play a direct role in planning areas in which they live and work by showing how the community wants land to be used and developed in its area.

Neighbourhood plans must meet certain “Basic Conditions” as set out in the legislation.

Who Writes a Neighbourhood Plan?

Neighbourhood plans are prepared by Town or Parish Councils or Neighbourhood Forums. The Binfield Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by Binfield Parish Council. There is a statutory process that must be followed to make a plan.

How are they Made?

The plan must be prepared through a process of consultation before an independent examiner reviews the plan and checks whether any modifications should be made to the plan and whether it should progress to the next stage in the process which is the referendum stage.

What Does the Referendum Result Mean?

If more than half of those voting have voted in favour of the neighbourhood plan, the local planning authority must make it part of the statutory development plan for the area to be used in determining decisions on planning applications.

The Binfield Neighbourhood Plan

The Binfield Neighbourhood Plan has been produced by Binfield Parish Council. It has been produced in accordance with the statutory requirements and, following independent examination which recommended some modifications, has been recommended to proceed to referendum.

Who is Responsible for Organising the Referendum?

The Counting Officer at Bracknell Forest Borough Council is responsible for the conduct of the referendum. The Counting Officer has the same role as the Returning Officer, who is responsible for the conduct of elections held within the Borough.

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

Referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan

A referendum asks you to vote 'yes' or 'no' on a specific question. For this referendum you will receive a Ballot Paper with this question:

“Do you want Bracknell Forest Borough Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Binfield Parish to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”

Who Can Vote in the Referendum?

You can vote in the referendum if you live in the Binfield Parish Neighbourhood Area and:

- You are registered to vote in local council elections (British, European or Commonwealth Citizens)
- You will be 18 years of age or older on the 3 March 2016.

In order to vote in the referendum you must be registered to vote by Tuesday 16 February 2016.

How Can I Vote

There are three ways of voting, you may vote in person, by post or by proxy.

In Person:

At your local Polling Station on Thursday 3 March 2016. This will be displayed on the Poll Card that will be sent to you.

Polling Stations will be open between 7:00 AM and 10:00 PM.

By Post:

If you already have a Postal Vote you will receive a Postal Poll card confirming this and Postal Vote Pack with your Ballot Paper.

If you do not have a Postal Vote but, would like to vote by post in the referendum please complete a Postal Vote Application form. A copy of which can be found on our website.

Once completed either scan a copy to voting@bracknell-forest.gov.uk or deliver it to:

Electoral Services,
Easthampstead House,
Town Square,
Bracknell,
RG12 1AQ

If you are not able to access the form online please contact us and we will arrange for a form to be posted to you.

Please note: The deadline for us to receive your Postal Vote application is 5:00 PM on Wednesday 17 February 2016.

By Proxy:

If you already have a Proxy Vote you will receive a Poll Card confirming this in the weeks leading up to the referendum.

If you are unable to vote at your Polling Station and do not wish to vote by post you may be eligible to vote by Proxy. This means appointing somebody to vote on your behalf at your Polling Station

Details on applying to vote by Proxy can be found here at:
www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/how-do-i-vote/voting-by-proxy

Please note: The deadline for us to receive your Postal Vote application is 5:00 PM on Wednesday 24 February 2016.

After this date you can still apply for an Emergency Proxy Vote if your circumstances meet certain criteria.

How to Mark Your Ballot Paper?

You show your choice by putting a cross (X) in the box next to your choice on the Ballot Paper.

Put a cross in only ONE box and do not mark your Ballot Paper in any other way. If the Counting Officer is not able to clearly understand what your intention was your vote will not be counted.

Referendum Expenses

Individuals or Groups may campaign to promote a particular outcome of the referendum.

Spending on the campaigns is restricted by an expenses limit, which campaigners and campaign groups must not exceed.

The referendum expenses limit that will apply in relation to the referendum and the numbers of persons entitled to vote has been calculated as the following:

The expenses limit as of the publication of this notice is:

Expenses limit: £2721.48

Persons Entitled to Vote: 6,093

How to Find Out More

- Further general information on neighbourhood planning can be found on www.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning
- Detailed Information on the proposal can be found on: www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/binfieldparishneighbourhoodarea

Key Reference Documents

The following documents (known as 'Specified Documents' under the Section 3 (b) of the Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) Regulations 2012 (as amended)) are available for inspection:

- The Binfield Neighbourhood Plan (incorporating modifications)
- The Independent Examiner's Report
- A Summary of any representations submitted to the Independent Examiner.
- Post Examination Decision Statement

These documents can be view on the Bracknell Forest Council Website at: www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/binfieldparishneighbourhoodarea

Hard copies of these documents can also be inspected at:

<p>Bracknell Forest Council, Time Square, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 1JD</p> <p>Between the 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM (Monday to Friday)</p>	<p>Binfield Parish Council Office, Benetfeld Road, Binfield, Berkshire, RG42 4EW</p> <p>Between the 9:00 AM and 12:00 PM (Monday to Friday)</p>
<p>Bracknell Forest Council, Town Square, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 1AQ</p> <p>Between the 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM (Monday to Friday)</p>	<p>Binfield Library Benetfeld Road, Binfield, Berkshire, RG42 4JZ</p> <p>Monday 2:00 PM – 7:00 PM, Tuesday 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM, Thursday 9:30 AM – 5:00 PM, Friday 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM, Saturday 9:30 AM – 4:00 PM</p>

Map of the Neighbourhood Area

