



Crowthorne 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 document:

On 6 May 2021 residents in Crowthorne 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/ Parish Councils or Neighbourhood Forums. The Crowthorne Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by Crowthorne Parish Council.

How are neighbourhood plans ‘made’?

There is a statutory process that must be followed to ‘make’ a plan.

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 (Bracknell Forest Council) must make it part of the statutory development plan for the area to be used in determining decisions on planning applications.

The Crowthorne Neighbourhood Plan:

The Crowthorne Neighbourhood Plan has been produced by Crowthorne Parish Council. It has been produced in accordance with the statutory requirements and, following independent examination, 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 for local elections and is responsible for the conduct of polls 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 Crowthorne Parish to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"

Who can vote in the referendum?

Any existing registered elector living within the designated area of the Crowthorne Neighbourhood Plan can vote on 6 May.

Those residents not yet registered must apply by midnight on Monday 19 April 2021 and can do so at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

How to cast a vote:

In person:

At your local polling station on Thursday 6 May 2021. All electors will receive a poll card

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 voting 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 here:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk/postalvote

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

Electoral Services
Time Square
Market Street
Bracknell
RG12 1JD

The deadline for us to receive your postal vote application is 5:00 PM on Tuesday 20 April 2021.

By proxy:

If you already have a proxy vote in place 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 can apply to vote by proxy. This means appointing somebody to vote on your behalf at your usual polling station.

Details on applying to vote by Proxy can be found here at:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk/proxyvote

The deadline for us to receive your proxy application is 5:00 PM on Tuesday 26 April 2021.

After this date you can still apply for an emergency proxy vote up to 5:00 PM on 6 May 2021 if your circumstances meet certain criteria.

How to mark your ballot paper:

You vote by marking 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.

A maximum of £2,362 plus £0.059 for each entry in the relevant register of electors may be spent by campaign organisers in connection with a referendum campaign.

March 2021

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:

Expenses limit: £2,680.66

Persons Entitled to Vote (as of publication date): 5,401

How to find out more:

Further general information on neighbourhood planning can be found on:

[Make a neighbourhood plan - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/make-a-neighbourhood-plan)

Detailed Information on the proposal can be found here:

[Crowthorne Parish Neighbourhood Area | Bracknell Forest Council \(bracknell-forest.gov.uk\)](https://bracknell-forest.gov.uk/crowthorne-parish-neighbourhood-area)

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 Crowthorne Neighbourhood Plan
- 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 here:

[Crowthorne Parish Neighbourhood Area | Bracknell Forest Council \(bracknell-forest.gov.uk\)](https://bracknell-forest.gov.uk/crowthorne-parish-neighbourhood-area)

Physical copies of these documents can also be inspected at*:

Bracknell Forest Council Time Square Market Street Bracknell RG12 1JD 01344 352000	From 12 April 2021: Crowthorne Library 162 High Street Crowthorne RG45 7AT 01344 776431
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*Please take note of any COVID-19 restrictions in place at the time at which you wish to view the documents and contact the venue to arrange an appointment beforehand.

Map of the neighbourhood area:

