



Norley Neighbourhood Plan Referendum

About this leaflet

On Thursday 3 December 2015 there will be a referendum on a neighbourhood plan for your area, the **Norley Neighbourhood Plan**. This leaflet explains more about the Planning System, Neighbourhood Planning and how you can take part in the referendum.

The Planning System

The planning system helps decide what gets built, where and when. It is essential for supporting economic growth, improving people's quality of life, and protecting the natural environment. Most new buildings, major changes to existing buildings or major changes to the local environment need planning permission. Without a planning system everyone could construct buildings or use land in any way they wanted, no matter what effect this would have on other people who live and work in their area.

Cheshire West and Chester Council is responsible for deciding whether most forms of development should go ahead within the borough. Decisions are based on **national planning policy guidance**, and the **local development plan**.

National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework provides guidance to local councils in drawing up local plans and on making decisions on planning applications.

The Development Plan

A development plan is a set of documents that set out the policies for the development and use of land across the local authority area. It can include Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans.

Local Plans

The Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part One) was adopted in January 2015 and, together with retained policies from the Chester District Local Plan (2006), Vale Royal Borough Local Plan (2006), Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Local Plan (2002) and Cheshire Replacement Minerals and Waste Local Plans (1999 and 2007) provides the planning policy framework for the borough.

Neighbourhood Plans

What are they?

Neighbourhood plans were introduced under the Localism Act. Their purpose is to give local communities greater influence on future development in their local area.

Neighbourhood plans are required by law to meet certain “Basic Conditions”. They must have regard to national planning policy and must generally conform with the strategic policies in the Local Plan. They must contribute to achieving sustainable development and be compatible with EU obligations and human rights requirements. Importantly, they should not be used to prevent development which is allowed for in the Local Plan.

Who makes them?

Neighbourhood plans are prepared by town or parish councils or specially established neighbourhood forums. 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 with local residents and businesses. An independent examiner then reviews the plan and checks whether it meets the basic conditions and other legal requirements. The examiner reports on whether any modifications should be made to the plan and whether it should proceed to the referendum stage.

At the referendum, local residents can vote on whether the neighbourhood plan should be used to help decide planning applications in the area. All those registered to vote within the neighbourhood area are entitled to vote in the referendum.

What status do Neighbourhood Plans have?

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. This means that the plan will be used as a basis for making decisions on planning applications.

Additional information in relation to neighbourhood planning is available on the following website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/neighbourhood-planning>

The Norley Neighbourhood Plan

The Norley Neighbourhood Plan has been produced by Norley Parish Council, working with Cheshire West and Chester Council and assisted by consultants. Preparation of the plan has followed the statutory requirements and it has recently been subject to an independent examination. Cheshire West and Chester Council has now decided that, subject to modifications, the plan can proceed to referendum.

The Referendum

The referendum will take place on **Thursday 3 December 2015**.

A referendum asks you to vote “yes” or “no” to a question. For this referendum the question you will be asked is

“Do you want Cheshire West and Chester Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for the Norley Area to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”

You show your choice 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.

More detailed information on the Referendum is available on the Council website at

http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/your_council/voting_and_elections/norley_neighbourhood_plan_refe.aspx

Specified documents

The following specified documents are available to help you to decide how to vote:

- The Norley Neighbourhood Plan;
- The report of the independent examiner;
- A summary of the representations submitted to the independent examiner;
- A statement by the local planning authority that the draft plan meets the basic conditions and complies with the relevant legislation;
- This note for information.

A copy of the specified documents may be viewed as follows:

Online:

At www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning

Or: On computer screens in the One Stop Shop areas of Council Offices between 8.30am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday at:

- The Forum Office, Chester, CH1 2HS;
- Wyvern House, The Drumber, Winsford, CW7 1AH; or
- Ellesmere Port Library, Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BG

In Person:

Between 8.30am and 5.00pm at the following Council offices:

- The Forum Office, Chester, CH1 2HS;
 - Frodsham Library and Integrated Services, Frodsham, WA6 6RX;
- and at:
- The Stores, School Bank, Norley, WA6 8NP during normal opening hours

How to find out more

- Further general information on neighbourhood planning is available on the following websites www.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning and www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning
- For queries relating to the neighbourhood plan please contact neighbourhoodplanning@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk or ring 01244 973884.