

# Information Statement

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This information statement is about the referendum to be held on the  
Buckland Newton Neighbourhood Plan

## About town and country planning

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In England, planning applications are determined by local planning authorities such as West Dorset District Council. Planning decisions are made in accordance with the adopted development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. A development plan sets out the planning policies for the development and use of land.

The [adopted Local Plan for West Dorset](#) is therefore the starting point for considering planning applications at the current time. The [national planning policy framework](#) must be taken into account in the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans, and is a material consideration in planning decisions.

Our [Local Development Scheme](#) contains information on development plan documents that are being prepared.

## About neighbourhood planning and the Buckland Newton Neighbourhood Plan

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Neighbourhood planning aims to help local communities play a direct role in planning the areas in which they live and work. In parished areas such as Buckland Newton, the Parish Council is responsible for preparing a neighbourhood plan. The plan can show how the community wants land to be used and developed in its area. If a plan is made following a successful referendum, it becomes part of the development plan for that area.

Buckland Newton Parish Council started preparing their neighbourhood plan in February 2013. After much research, and having listened to the various issues and suggestions made through various consultation events, a draft plan was produced for consultation in May 2015. The plan was then revised in response to the consultation and submitted to West Dorset District Council in January 2016 and subject to a further round of consultation ending in March 2016. Mr Derek Stebbing was appointed as an Independent Examiner for the Buckland Newton Neighbourhood Plan, and in June 2017 he produced his consolidated [report](#) confirming that he was satisfied that the plan meets the basic conditions and recommended that it should, subject to some changes, proceed to referendum.

West Dorset District Council considered the [report](#) at Strategy Committee 12 September 2017 and issued its [decision statement](#) which was in agreement with the examiner's findings, and that the [plan as modified](#) should proceed to referendum.

## What the referendum is deciding

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The question which will be asked in the referendum is:

“Do you want West Dorset District Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Buckland Newton to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”

The referendum asks you to vote yes or no to this question.

## When and where the referendum will be held

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The referendum will be held on **Thursday 2 November 2017**.

## What is the area covered by the referendum?

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The referendum area and the area covered by the neighbourhood plan is the Parish of Buckland Newton.

## Who is entitled to vote?

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You are entitled to vote in the referendum if you live in the referendum area, you are on the electoral register to vote in local council elections and you are 18 years of age or over on 2 November 2017.

You have to be registered to vote by Tuesday 17 October 2017 to vote in the referendum. You can check if you are registered to vote by telephoning 01305 838299 during normal office hours.

## How can people vote?

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

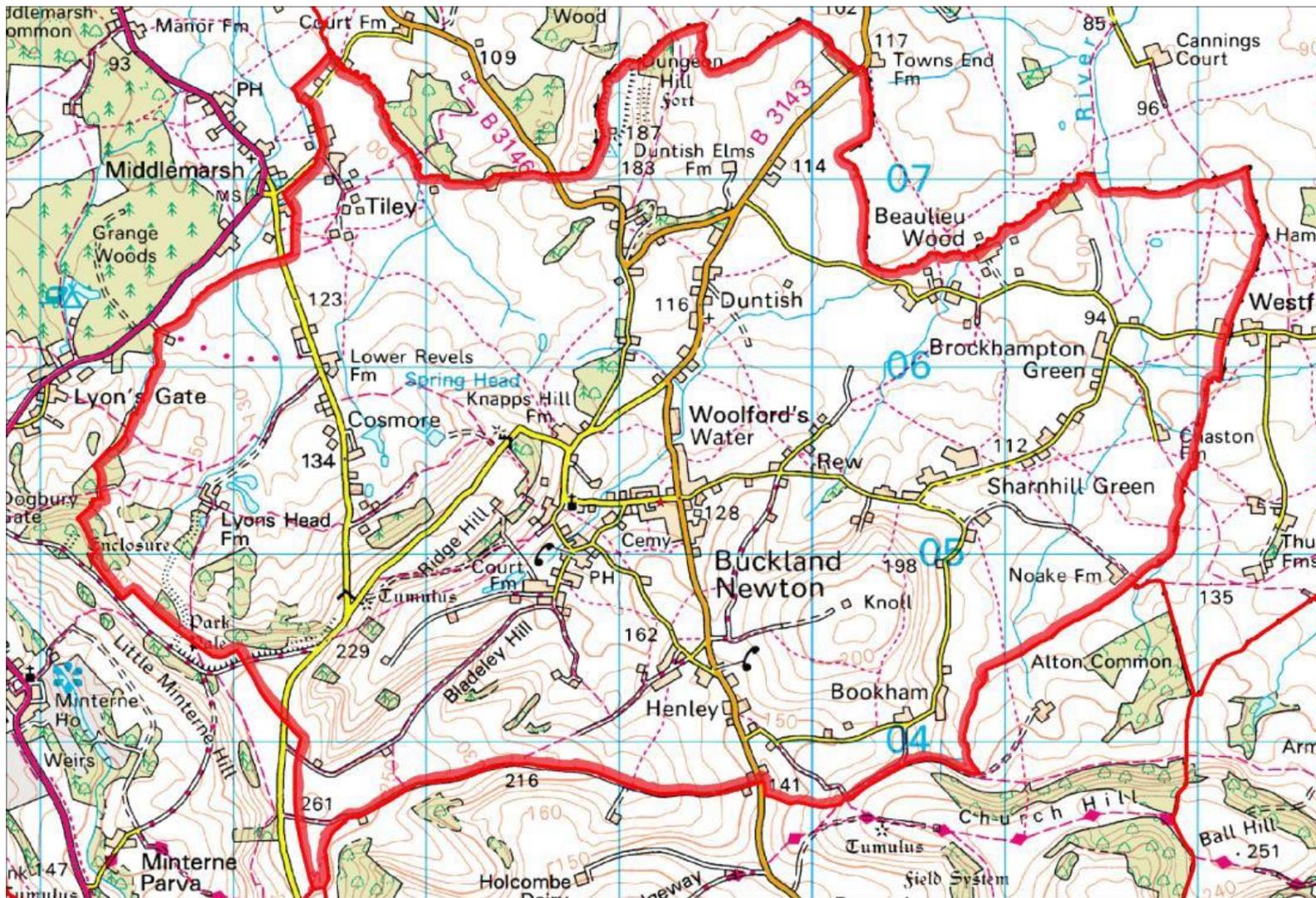
You can vote in person at the polling station – which is at Committee Room, Buckland Newton Village Hall, Buckland Newton DT2 7BZ. We will issue poll cards to voters at the end of October. The polling station will be open from 7am to 10pm on 2 November 2017.

To vote by post or proxy in this referendum, you will need to have filled in an application form and sent it to the Electoral Registration Officer. Postal and proxy vote application forms are available online from the elections website <https://www.dorsetforyou.com/404855> or by contacting the district council.

Applications to vote by post must be received by 5pm on Wednesday 18 October 2017. To vote by proxy, application forms should be received by 5pm on Wednesday 25 October 2017. However in certain circumstances emergency proxy vote applications can be received up until 5pm on the 2 November 2017. 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.

Ballot papers for people who vote by post will be posted from the 23 October 2017, and will need to be returned by 10pm on the day of the poll, 2 November 2017.

Map of the referendum area



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## Referendum expenses

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The referendum expenses limit that will apply in relation to the referendum is £2,362 plus £0.059 per registered elector (in October this was 545 people).

## What information is there available about the neighbourhood plan?

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A copy of the specified documents, that is the documents listed below, may be inspected at the following council offices:

- **West Dorset District Council offices**, South Walks House, South Walks Road, Dorchester DT1 1UZ which is open 8.30am to 5.00pm Monday to Thursday and 8.30am to 4.30pm on Fridays.
- **Sherborne Town Council offices**, The Manor House, Newland, Sherborne, Dorset, DT9 3JL which is open 10.00am – 4.00pm Monday to Thursday **and** 10.00 am - 1.00 pm on Friday

The specified documents are:

- A **summary of representations** submitted to the examiner
- The **examiner's report**
- The **Buckland Newton Neighbourhood Plan** (as proposed)
- The **decision statement**, which includes a statement by the local planning authority that the plan as proposed meets the basic conditions
- This **information statement**, which includes general information as to town and country planning including neighbourhood planning and the referendum

All of the above documents can be viewed on the council's website:

[www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/Buckland-Newton-Neighbourhood-Plan](http://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/Buckland-Newton-Neighbourhood-Plan)

The Parish Council also intend to ensure copies of these documents are available locally, and intend to run drop-in sessions.

The Parish Council will make copies of the plan available for inspection from the 29th September at the following locations:

- The Village Hall
- The Old Chapel Stores
- The Church

A display will be available for inspection at the Village Hall on the following dates and times:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	
Friday 29th September *	9.00 am – 12.00 noon	Post Office hours
Monday 23rd October *	9.00 am – 12.00 noon	Post Office hours
Tuesday 24th October *	9.00 am – 12.00 noon	Post Office hours
Thursday 26th October	7.00 pm – 9.00 pm	Evening session
Friday 27th October *	9.00 am – 12.00 noon	Post Office hours
Saturday 28th October	10.00 am – 12.30 pm	Morning session

\*These sessions will be unmanned. A copy will also be available in the Village Cafe (10.30 until noon).

If you are a Buckland Newton resident and would like to see the documents but are unable to visit these locations (or the documents are not there) please phone Nick Cardnell on 01305 838263 and he will try to help.

The adopted Local Plan for West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland	<a href="https://www.dorsetforyou.com/jointlocalplan/west/weymouth">https://www.dorsetforyou.com/jointlocalplan/west/weymouth</a>
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2</a>
Local Development Scheme (LDS)	<a href="https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/media/212391/Joint-Local-Development-Scheme-March-2016/pdf/TW_fn_LDS_FINAL_v2_1602011.pdf">https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/media/212391/Joint-Local-Development-Scheme-March-2016/pdf/TW_fn_LDS_FINAL_v2_1602011.pdf</a>
Independent Examiner's Report	<a href="https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/media/222392/Examiners-Final-Report-Buckland-Newton-Neighbourhood-Plan/pdf/Buckland%20Newton%20Final%20consolidated%20Report%20-%20Web%20Version.pdf">https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/media/222392/Examiners-Final-Report-Buckland-Newton-Neighbourhood-Plan/pdf/Buckland Newton Final consolidated Report - Web Version.pdf</a>
Buckland Newton Neighbourhood Plan Decision Statement	<a href="https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/media/223269/Decision-Statement-Buckland-Newton-Neighbourhood-Plan/pdf/20170912_-_Decision_Statement_-_Final.pdf">https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/media/223269/Decision-Statement-Buckland-Newton-Neighbourhood-Plan/pdf/20170912 - Decision Statement - Final.pdf</a>
Buckland Newton Neighbourhood Plan (as proposed)	<a href="https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/media/223271/Buckland-Newton-Neighbourhood-Plan-as-Proposed/pdf/Appendix_C_-_Buckland%20Newton%20Neighbourhood%20Plan%20as%20amended_-_final.pdf">https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/media/223271/Buckland-Newton-Neighbourhood-Plan-as-Proposed/pdf/Appendix C - Buckland Newton Neighbourhood Plan as amended - final.pdf</a>