

REFERENDUM

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR HAMPTON IN ARDEN

EXPLANATORY INFORMATION STATEMENT FOR VOTERS & GENERAL INFORMATION STATEMENT ON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLANS

On 6th July 2017 a referendum will take place on the Hampton in Arden Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). The NDP has been produced by Hampton in Arden Parish Council as the 'Qualifying Body' entitled to produce such a plan.

Referendum Question

You will be invited to vote 'yes' or 'no' to the following question:

'Do you want Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Hampton in Arden to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'

Who is eligible to Vote?

You are eligible to vote if you satisfy all of the following:

- You are registered to vote in local council elections
- The address at which you are registered to vote in a local council election, as shown in the register of electors, is in the referendum area (see attached map), provided you are entitled to be registered at the address.
- You are 18 years of age or over on the day of the referendum

To vote in the referendum you must be registered to vote by **Tuesday 20th June 2017**. You can enquire if you are registered to vote by calling **0121 704 6042**

The referendum will be conducted based on procedures that are similar to those used at local government elections.

How to Vote

Put a cross (X) in the in the box next to the answer of your choice on your ballot paper. Vote once only. Do not mark the ballot paper in any other way, or your vote may not be counted.

In this referendum, if more people vote yes than no Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council will enable the Neighbourhood Development Plan to become part of the adopted local plan for Solihull and it will be used to help the Council decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood Development Plan Area. See below for ways to vote.

Referendum expenses

Expenses can be incurred by an individual or body during the period of the referendum for referendum purposes only.

The referendum expenses limit that will apply in regard to this referendum is **£2,450.91**. The number of persons entitled to vote in this referendum by reference to which this limit has been set is **1,507**.

Specified Documents

There are a number of documents that may help you to make your decision on whether to vote yes or no. These are referred to in the regulations as 'specified documents'.

The specified documents are as follows:

- The Referendum version of the Neighbourhood Plan for Hampton In Arden (i.e. as modified to accord with the recommendations of the Independent Examiner)
- Report of the Independent Examiner
- Summary of consultation responses that were submitted to the Independent Examiner.
- Decision statement by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council that the NDP meets 'basic conditions' (as explained below)
- This general information statement for voters and on neighbourhood development plans.

Basic Conditions

To proceed to referendum a neighbourhood plan must meet all of the following conditions:

- Has regard to national policy and guidance from the Secretary of State.
- The plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development
- The neighbourhood plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the adopted Solihull Local Plan.
- The making of the Neighbourhood Plan does not breach, or is otherwise compatible with, European Union (EU) obligations (including the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive 2001/42/EC)
- The making of the Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010)

Further information

You can find the specific documents on the Hampton in Arden Neighbourhood Plan via the following link:

<http://www.solihull.gov.uk/Resident/Planning/appealsenforcement/planmaking/neighbourhoodplanning>

For any further information about voting and arrangements for the referendum contact the following: The Returning Officer, Elections Office, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council. Email election@solihull.gov.uk telephone 0121 704 6042.

General Background Note on Neighbourhood Planning

Neighbourhood planning was introduced by the Localism Act 2011. It enables Parish/Town Council's and local communities to prepare a neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) which can shape development and growth in their local area. The body that undertakes to prepare a NDP is known as the 'Qualifying Body' which in this case is Hampton in Arden Parish Council. If adopted the NDP will become part of the adopted borough wide development plan and will be used to assist Solihull Council in making decisions on development applications.

A NDP is intended to be community led and should contain policies to guide the future use and development of land within the defined 'Neighbourhood Area'. The NDP must meet specified 'basic conditions' as described earlier in this information statement, including that it must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and be in general conformity with policies of the adopted Solihull Local Plan that was adopted in December 2013.

Neighbourhood Area

The Neighbourhood Area is the geographic area that the NDP relates to. It can relate to single streets or large urban or rural areas. The boundary is put forward by the Qualifying Body when applying to the council for formal designation of a neighbourhood area. In this case the area is defined in Figure 1.1 of the Hampton in Arden NDP (and as attached).

Referendum Area

The referendum area is identical to the area designated as the Hampton in Arden Neighbourhood Area (attached).

Adopted Local Plan

Planning applications are determined by the Local Planning Authority in accordance with the development plan. This comprises a suite of documents that set out the policies for the development and use of land across the whole of the local authority area. The current development plan is the Solihull Local Plan that was adopted in December 2013. A NDP that achieves more yes votes than no votes in the referendum is then adopted ('made'), by the Council as part of its adopted local plan.

WAYS TO VOTE

There are 3 ways to vote:

1) In person at your local polling station on the day of the referendum.

- In regard to the Hampton in Arden village the polling station is: **George Fentham Hall, Marsh Lane, Hampton in Arden.**
- You will receive a poll card confirming your polling station
- If you do not receive a poll card by 12th June you can contact the Council's helpline ...**0121 704 6042** Or email election@solihull.gov.uk to find out where your polling station is
- Polling stations are open from **7.00am to 10.00pm on 6th July 2017**

2) By Post:

- If you want to vote by post you will need to complete an application form and send it to Solihull MBC, Electoral Services, Council House, Manor Square, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 3QB. If you require help completing the form please phone 0121 704 6042
- **The deadline for new applications to vote by post for this referendum is 5pm on Wednesday 21st June**
- If you have postal vote already, you will receive a letter confirming this.
- You should receive your postal vote about a week prior to polling day. If it does not arrive in time, you can request a replacement up to 5pm on 6th July by contacting 0121 704 6042.

3) By proxy

- 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 by allowing someone you trust to vote on your behalf.
- To vote by proxy you need to complete an application form and send it to the Electoral Registration Officer to arrive by 5PM ON Wednesday 28th June at Solihull MBC, Electoral Services, Council House, Manor Square, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 3QB
- If you have a proxy vote already you will receive a polling card confirming this.
- When you apply for a proxy vote you must say why you cannot vote in person
- Anyone can be your proxy provided they are eligible to vote and willing to vote on your behalf.
- Postal and proxy vote application forms are available from our helpline 0121 704 6042 or online at the following <http://www.solihull.gov.uk/About-the-Council/Voting/register tovote>

Am I registered to vote?

Unless you are registered you will not be able to vote. You can check if you are registered by calling our helpline or by emailing election@solihull.gov.uk. You can register online at

www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. The last date you can register for the referendum is Tuesday 20th June. If you are unable to register online call our helpline number. You will need to provide your date of birth and national insurance number when you register.

Further information on voting can be found at the following link:

<http://www.solihull.gov.uk/About-the-Council/Voting/register-to-vote>

Hampton-in-Arden Neighbourhood Area

