

Referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan for the Bere Peninsula

Thursday 27 September 2018

INFORMATION STATEMENT & INFORMATION FOR VOTERS

A Referendum relating to the Bere Peninsula Neighbourhood Plan will be held on Thursday 27 September 2018.

This information sheet explains more about the Referendum that will be taking place.

The question to be asked at the Referendum will be:

'Do you want West Devon Borough Council to use the Bere Peninsula Neighbourhood Plan to help it decide planning applications in the Bere Peninsula Neighbourhood Area?'

You vote by putting a cross (X) in the 'Yes' or 'No' box on the ballot paper.

If more people vote 'yes' than 'no' in the Referendum, then West Devon Borough Council will use the Bere Peninsula Neighbourhood Plan to help it to decide planning applications within the Bere Peninsula.

The Neighbourhood Plan, once adopted, will then become part of the Development Plan used by the Local Planning Authority (West Devon Borough Council).

If more people vote 'no' than 'yes' in this Referendum, or there is a tied vote, then planning applications will continue to be decided without reference to the Neighbourhood Plan as part of the Development Plan for the local area.

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

What is Neighbourhood Planning?

Neighbourhood planning was introduced under the Localism Act 2011 to give local communities more control in the planning of their neighbourhoods. It introduced new rights and powers to allow local communities to shape new development in their local area. It enables communities to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and deliver the sustainable development they need.

What is a Neighbourhood Area?

A neighbourhood area can cover single streets or large urban or rural areas. The boundaries of a neighbourhood area are put forward by:

- Town or parish councils, or
- A neighbourhood forum (in areas without a town or parish council)

What is a Development Plan?

In England, planning applications are determined by local planning authorities in accordance with the development plan. A development plan is a set of documents that set out the policies for the development and use of land for a given area.

Bere Peninsula Neighbourhood Area

The Referendum area is identified as the whole parish of Bere Ferrers (also known as the Bere Peninsula) which has been designated as the Bere Peninsula Neighbourhood Plan area.

Referendum campaign costs

An individual or body can incur costs during the period of the Referendum for the purposes of campaigning in association with the Referendum.

The Referendum expenses limit that will apply to the Bere Peninsula Neighbourhood Area is £2508.67. The number of people entitled to vote in the Referendum by reference to which this limit has been calculated is 2486.

Specified documents

The following specified documents can be inspected on the Council's website at www.westdevon.gov.uk/article/4769/Bere-Peninsula-Neighbourhood-Plan-Referendum or at the following address, at the following times:

Reception of West Devon Borough Council

Kilworthy Park, Tavistock, PL19 0BZ

9.00am - 5.00pm Monday – Friday

The specified documents are:

- Bere Peninsula Neighbourhood Plan
- Report of the Independent Examiner
- Summary of the representations submitted to the Independent Examiner
- A statement by the local planning authority that the draft plan meets the basic conditions (Decision Statement)
- Information Statement and Information for Voters (this document)

Who can vote?

A person is entitled to vote if at the time of the Referendum they meet the eligibility criteria to vote in a local election for the area and if they live in the Referendum area. The eligibility criteria are:

You are registered to vote in local government elections on 11 September, 2018; and

- You are 18 years of age or over on 27 September 2018
- If you are not registered, you won't be able to vote. **You can check if you are registered by calling our Helpline on 01822 813604**

If you are not registered to vote, you can go online to www.gov.uk/register-to-vote with your national insurance number by midnight on 11 September 2018. If you do not have access to the internet please call our helpline on 01822 813604 during office hours making sure that you allow sufficient time to complete and return an application form by 11 September 2018.

How to vote

There are three ways of voting:

In person

- On Thursday 27 September 2018 at your local polling station
- You will receive a poll card confirming the polling stations for this Referendum. The polling stations will be open from 7am to 10pm

By post

- If you have a postal vote already you will receive a poll card confirming this
- If you want to vote by post you will need to complete an application form and send it to the Electoral Registration Officer at West Devon Borough Council (at the address below) to arrive by 5pm on Wednesday 12 September. Application forms can be downloaded from www.westdevon.gov.uk/article/3026/Apply-for-a-Postal-or-Proxy-Vote or you can call our helpline on 01822 813604 or email elections@westdevon.gov.uk to request an application form
- Postal votes can be sent overseas but you need to think about whether you will have time to receive and return your completed postal vote by 27 September 2018
- You should receive your postal vote approximately 10 days before polling day. If it doesn't arrive in time, you can ask for a replacement up to 5.00pm on 27 September 2018 by contacting our helpline 01822 813604

By proxy

- If you have a proxy vote already you will receive a poll card confirming this
- 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. This means allowing somebody that you trust to vote on your behalf
- If you want to vote by proxy you will need to complete an application form and send it to the Electoral Registration Officer at West Devon Borough Council (at the address below) to arrive by 5.00pm on Wednesday 19 September 2018. Application forms can be downloaded from www.westdevon.gov.uk/article/3026/Apply-for-a-Postal-or-Proxy-Vote or you can call our helpline on 01822 813604 or email elections@westdevon.gov.uk to request an application form.

How to find out more

Further general information on neighbourhood planning is available at www.westdevon.gov.uk/article/3891/Neighbourhood-Plans

For queries about planning issues and neighbourhood planning in general, please contact the Neighbourhood Planning Team by emailing NeighbourhoodPlan@swdevon.gov.uk

You can find specific documents on the Bere Peninsula Neighbourhood Plan at www.westdevon.gov.uk/article/3891/Neighbourhood-Plans

For more information about voting and the arrangements for this Referendum, please contact our Helpline on 01822 813604 or email elections@westdevon.gov.uk

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