

Ninfield Neighbourhood Plan

Information Statement

Date issue: July 2024

About this statement

A referendum on the Ninfield Neighbourhood Plan will be held on 5 September 2024. This statement provides information on the referendum that is taking place as well as information on neighbourhood planning.

Referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan

A referendum asks you to vote 'yes' or 'no' to a question. The question to be asked at the Referendum will be:

- Do you want Wealden District Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Ninfield to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?

How do I vote in the referendum?

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

What does the vote mean?

If more people vote "Yes" than "No" in this Referendum, then Wealden District Council will use the Ninfield Neighbourhood Plan to help it decide planning applications within Ninfield. The Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the Development Plan.

If more people vote "No" than "Yes", or if there is a tied vote, then planning applications will continue to be decided without reference to the Neighbourhood Plan.

What is Neighbourhood Planning?

Neighbourhood planning was introduced under the Localism Act 2011. This empowers local communities to take responsibility for the development of planning policy for their neighbourhood area through a neighbourhood plan to help shape future development in its area.

What is a Neighbourhood Area?

A Neighbourhood Area is an area designated by the local planning authority following an application by a town or parish council. For the Ninfield Neighbourhood Plan, the neighbourhood area is the Ninfield parish boundary.

Who can prepare a Neighbourhood Plan?

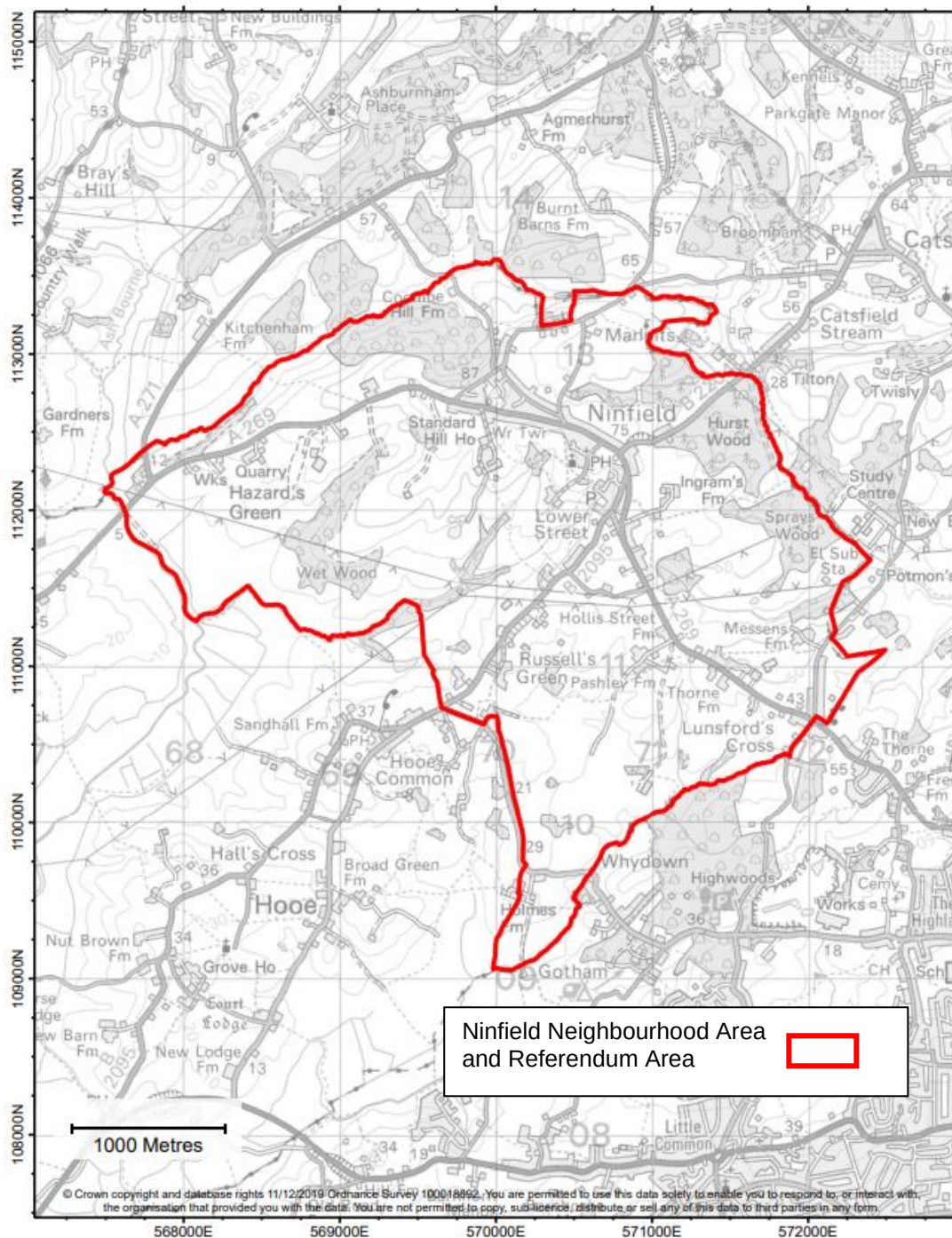
A neighbourhood plan can be prepared by town or parish councils, or neighbourhood forums. The Ninfield Neighbourhood Plan was prepared by Ninfield Parish Council.

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.

Ninfield Referendum Area

The Referendum Area is identified on the map below. This area is identical to the area that has been designated as the Ninfield Neighbourhood Area and to that which the Ninfield Neighbourhood Plan relates.



Referendum Expenses

Expenses can be incurred during the period of the Referendum for the purposes of campaigning in association with the Referendum.

The referendum expenses limit that will apply in relation to the referendum is **£2441.95**. The number of people entitled to vote in the referendum (by reference to which the limit has been calculated) is 1355.

Specified documents

The following specified documents can be inspected on the Council's Neighbourhood Planning [webpage](#):

- This Information Statement
- Ninfield Neighbourhood Development Plan 2022-2039 Referendum Version.
- Report of the Independent Examiner dated April 2024.
- Summary of the representations submitted to the Independent Examiner.
- Statement by the local planning authority that the draft plan meets the basic conditions (the Regulation 18 Decision Statement).
- Statement that sets out general information on town and country planning (including neighbourhood planning) and the referendum.

The documents are also available for inspection at the following locations:

- Wealden District Council offices, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham BN27 2AX Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8.30am-5pm, Wednesday 9am - 5pm;
- Every Friday morning in the referendum period at the Community Café, Methodist Hall, Church Lane, Ninfield, East Sussex, TN33 9JW 9.30-11.30am or by arrangement with the Parish Clerk clerk@ninfieldpc.co.uk

Who can vote?

You can vote in the Referendum if you live in the Referendum Area and:

- You are registered to vote in Local Government Elections; and
- You are 18 years of age or over on polling day.

You must be registered to vote by midnight on 19 August 2024. You can [register to vote online](#). If you're unable to register online, you can apply by post. You can download the relevant forms on the [UK Government website](#)

The Referendum will be conducted in accordance with the procedures which are similar to those used at Local Government Elections (as stated in the Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) Regulations 2012 (as amended)).

How to vote?

There are a number of ways to have your say in September – you can vote in a polling station, by post, or by appointing someone you trust to vote on your behalf, known as a proxy vote. Electors can now apply online for postal votes (<https://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote>) or a proxy vote (<https://www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote>). Further information on how to vote is available on the Council's [Forthcoming Elections](#) website.

How to find out more information:

For any questions, please contact the Planning Policy Team on 01892 602008 or email nplans@wealden.gov.uk or the Electoral Services Team on 01892 602417.