

Wadhurst Neighbourhood Plan

Information Statement

Date issue: March 2024

About this statement

A referendum on the Wadhurst Neighbourhood Plan will be held on Thursday 2nd May 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 Wadhurst 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 Wadhurst Neighbourhood Plan to help it decide planning applications within Wadhurst. 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 Wadhurst the neighbourhood area is the Wadhurst parish boundary.

Who can prepare a Neighbourhood Plan?

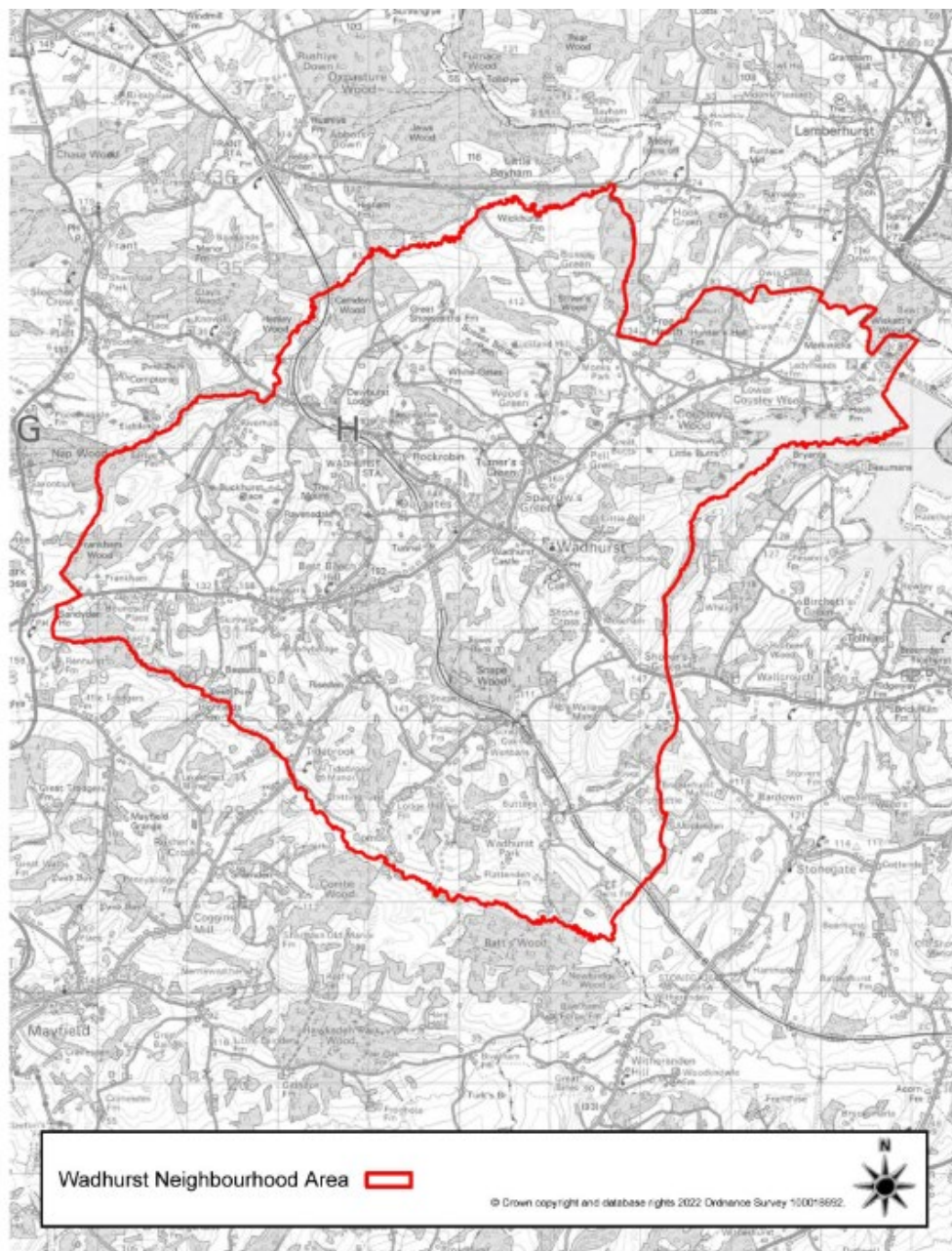
A neighbourhood plan can be prepared by town or parish councils, or neighbourhood forums. Wadhurst Neighbourhood Plan was prepared by Wadhurst Parish Council.

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.

Wadhurst Referendum Area

The Referendum Area is identified on the map below. This area is identical to the area that has been designated as the Wadhurst Neighbourhood Area and to that which the Wadhurst 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 **£2,598.24**. The number of people entitled to vote in the referendum (by reference to which the limit has been calculated) is 4,004.

Specified documents

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

- This Information Statement
- Wadhurst Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2039 Referendum Version.
- Report of the independent examiner dated 18th January 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 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;
- Wadhurst Library, High Street, Wadhurst, TN5 6AP
Monday 2pm to 4.30pm, Wednesday 10am-1pm, Friday 2-4.30pm, Saturday 10am-1pm.

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 Tuesday 16th April 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.

How to vote?

There are a number of ways to have your say in May – 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