

www.oxford.gov.uk



**WOLVERCOTE NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN
REFERENDUM**

THURSDAY 6 MAY 2021

**INFORMATION STATEMENT
&
INFORMATION FOR VOTERS**

Information Statement

A Referendum relating to the adoption of the Wolvercote Neighbourhood Development Plan will be held for the Wolvercote Neighbourhood Area on Thursday 6 May 2021.

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

The question asked at the Referendum will be:

Do you want Oxford City Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Wolvercote to help it decide planning applications in the 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 Oxford City Council will use the Wolvercote Neighbourhood Development Plan to help it to decide planning applications within Wolvercote. The Neighbourhood Plan, once adopted, will then become part of the Development Plan used by the Local Planning Authority (Oxford City Council).

If more people vote 'no' than 'yes', in this Referendum or there is a tied vote, then planning applications will be decided without reference to the Neighbourhood Development 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 through planning policies relating to the development and use of land.

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
- A neighbourhood forum with a group of at least 21 people (in areas without a town or parish council)

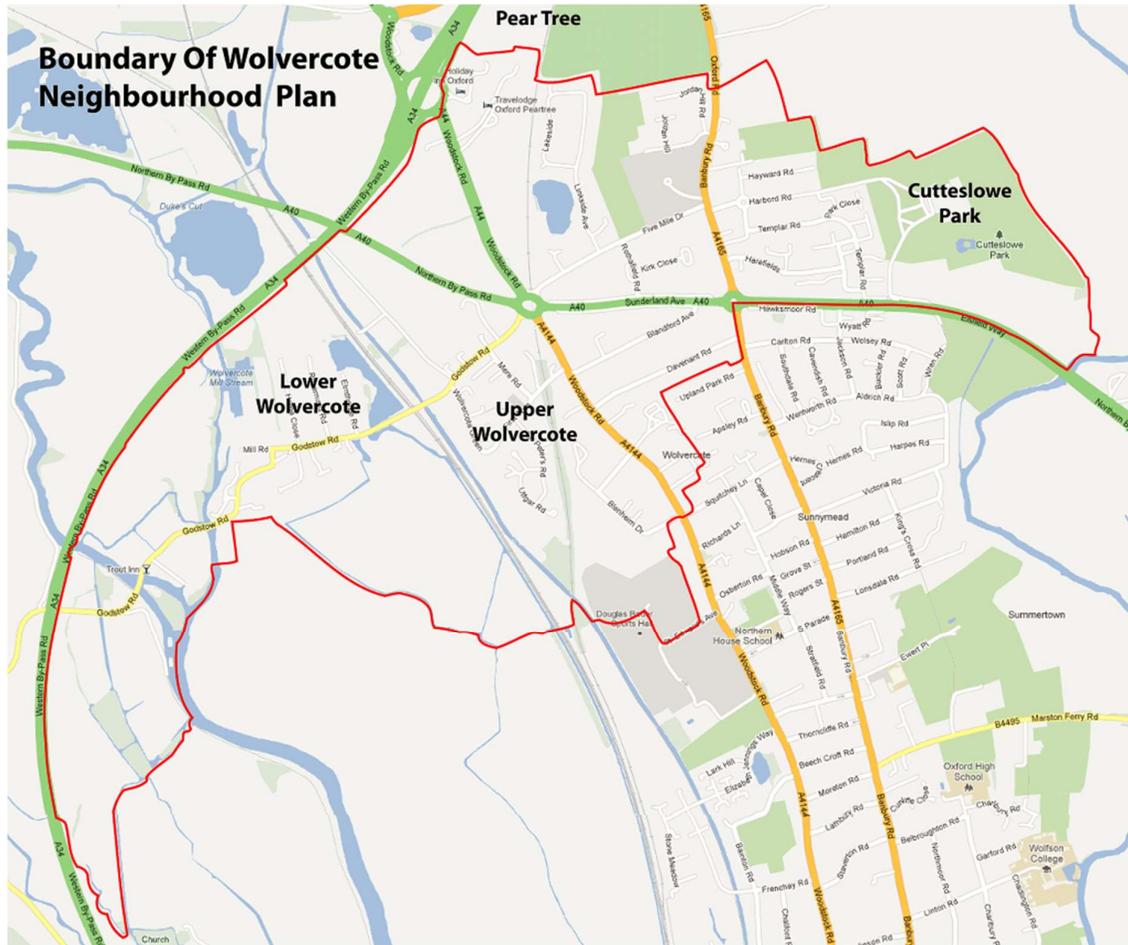
What is a Development Plan?

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 across the entire local authority area.

Wolvercote Neighbourhood Area

The Referendum area is identified on the map below. The referendum area is the same area which has been designated as the Wolvercote Neighbourhood Plan area. The referendum and the neighbourhood plan area have the same boundary as the ward of Wolvercote prior to the boundary change in 2020.



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 Wolvercote Neighbourhood Development plan is £2622.43. The number of people entitled to vote in the Referendum by reference to which this limit has been calculated is 4414.

Specified documents

The following specified documents can be inspected on the Council's website at <https://www.oxford.gov.uk/wolvercote-neighbourhood-plan>. **Anyone having difficulty in accessing these documents should contact Rachel Williams (Planning Policy Manager) at planningpolicy@oxford.gov.uk or on 01865 252847.**

The specified documents are:

- Wolvercote Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Summary of the representations submitted to the Independent Examiner
- Statement that the draft plan meets the basic conditions (decision statement)
- Independent Examiner's Report

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; and
- You are 18 years of age or over on Thursday 6 May 2021.

If you are not registered, you won't be able to vote. You can check if you are registered by calling our Helpline on 01865 249811.

If you are not registered to vote, you can go online to www.gov.uk/register-to-vote by 11:59pm on Monday 19 April 2021. If you do not have access to the internet, please call our helpline on 01865 249811.

How to vote

There are three ways of voting:

In person on Thursday 6 May 2021 at your local polling station.

- You should receive a poll card confirming your polling station for this Referendum.
- Polling stations are 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 to arrive **by 5pm on Tuesday 20 April 2021** at the address below.
- Postal votes can be sent overseas, but think about whether you will have time to receive and return your completed postal vote by 6 May 2021.
- 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 5pm on 6 May 2021 by contacting our helpline 01865 249811.

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 address below to arrive **by 5pm on Tuesday 27 April 2021** at the address below.
- Postal and proxy vote application forms are available from Oxford City Council's website at: www.oxford.gov.uk/elections or you can call our helpline on 01865 249811 or email elections@oxford.gov.uk to request an application form.

How to find out more

- Further general information on neighbourhood planning is available at www.oxford.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning
- For queries about planning issues and neighbourhood planning in general, please contact planningpolicy@oxford.gov.uk
- You can find specific documents on the Wolvercote Neighbourhood Development Plan at <https://www.oxford.gov.uk/wolvercote-neighbourhood-plan>
- For more information about voting and the arrangements for this Referendum, please contact our Helpline on 01865 249811 or email: elections@oxford.gov.uk

Published on: Tuesday 23 March 2021

Electoral Services
Oxford City Council
Town Hall, St. Aldate's, Oxford, OX1 1BX