



Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green Neighbourhood Plan Information Statement

1. About this statement

A referendum on the Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green Neighbourhood Plan will be held on **Thursday 4th May 2023**. This statement provides information on the referendum that is taking place, and the neighbourhood plan it relates to.

2. Referendum on the Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green Neighbourhood Plan

A referendum asks you to vote 'yes' or 'no' to a question. For this referendum you will receive a ballot paper which asks the following question:

Do you want Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?

3. What is a neighbourhood area?

The neighbourhood area for Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green is identified on the map which is included at the end of this Information Statement. The boundary of the neighbourhood area was approved by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council in February 2021 and covers the parish of Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green.

The referendum area is identical to the area which has been designated as the Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green Neighbourhood Area. The independent examiner also recommended that the Plan proceed to a referendum based on the Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green Neighbourhood Area, as approved by the borough council.

4. Am I entitled to vote in the Referendum?

A person is entitled to vote in the referendum if on the 4th May 2023:

- he or she is registered to vote in a local government election in the referendum area; and
- his or her qualifying address for the referendum is in the referendum area. A person's qualifying address is, in relation to a person registered in the register of electors, the address in respect of which he or she is entitled to be registered.

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

5. How do I vote in the Referendum?

You will be given a ballot paper at the polling station and you can vote by putting a cross (X) in the 'Yes' or 'No' box on your ballot paper. You will only be allowed to put a cross in one box or your vote will not be counted.

If more than 50% of individuals vote 'yes' in the referendum, then Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council will 'make' the Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green Neighbourhood Plan. If the Neighbourhood Plan is 'made' it will help determine planning applications in the Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green Neighbourhood Area. It will also form part of the statutory development plan for Basingstoke and Deane.

If more people vote 'no' than 'yes' then the Neighbourhood Plan will not be made part of the statutory development plan for the local area.

6. What are the referendum documents and where can you view them?

There are a number of documents that are available to view as part of the referendum. These are listed below:

- The referendum version of the Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green Neighbourhood Plan;
- The independent examiner's report on the Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green Neighbourhood Plan;
- A Decision Statement from the Local Planning Authority which confirms the draft Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions and other legislative requirements. It also confirms that the neighbourhood plan can proceed to referendum;
- A statement that sets out general information in respect of town and country planning, which includes neighbourhood planning.

All of the documents can be viewed online at any time on the council's website at:

<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/ESBGNP>

A hard copy of the above documents and this Information Statement can be inspected at:

- Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, RG21 4AH (8:30am – 17:00 pm Mon – Thurs, 8:30am – 16:30pm Fri);
- Basingstoke Discovery Centre, Festival Place Shopping Centre, Basingstoke, RG21 7LS (8:30am – 18:30pm Mon – Fri, 8:30am – 16:30pm Sat);
- Newbury Central Library, The Wharf, Newbury, RG21 5AU. (9:00 – 17:00 Monday-Wednesday and Friday, 9:00 – 18:00 Thursday and 10:00 to 16:00 on Saturdays).
- Tadley Library Mulfords Hill Tadley RG26 3JE (9:30am - 5:00pm on Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays, and 9:30am - 1:30pm on Tuesdays)
- The Royal Oak, Ecchinswell Rd, Ecchinswell, Newbury RG20 4UH (Wednesday - Friday 12 noon – 3pm and 5pm – 11pm and Saturday 12 – 11pm and Sunday 12 noon – 10pm)
- Or by contacting the Parish Council at clerk@ecchinswellpc.gov.uk or phone 07748 733388

The above is subject to consultation with the relevant organisations operating those premises and Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green Parish Council in order to ensure that it is considered appropriate and safe to display the documents in those locations. Prior to any members of the public seeking to view any of the documents in these locations it is recommended that they contact the operator of those venues in order to clarify arrangements for viewing the documents (for example in case appointments need to be made) and opening times.

Alternatively, if you do not have access to the internet you can request a paper copy of the above documents by calling the council's contact centre on 01256 844844. If you would like any of the above documents in a different format, e.g. large print, Braille, please contact customerservice@basingstoke.gov.uk or call the council's Contact Centre on 01256 844844.

7. Referendum Expenses

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

The referendum expenses limit that will apply (as at 24th March 2023) in relation to this referendum is £2,414.27. The number of persons entitled to vote in the referendum is 886.

8. How to find out more

Further general information on neighbourhood planning is available on the council's website at: <http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplan>

For queries regarding planning issues and neighbourhood planning in general, please contact the Planning Policy Team on 01256 844844 or by email at local.plan@basingstoke.gov.uk.

Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green Neighbourhood Plan Area

