

What is the Whitchurch Neighbourhood Development Plan?

Neighbourhood Plans are a way for communities to decide the future of the places where they live and work. The Whitchurch Neighbourhood Development Plan sets out a vision for the parish and planning policies which will be used to determine planning applications locally and guide development in the parish up until 2029.

There has been a previous round of public consultation on the draft Whitchurch Neighbourhood Plan organised by Whitchurch Town Council during November 2015 to January 2016. Now that the Plan has been submitted to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council it is the final opportunity to have your say on this document before it is considered at an independent examination.

What is the next stage in the Plan's preparation?

The Whitchurch Neighbourhood Plan will be published for a 6 week period of consultation. This is a public consultation carried out by the Local Planning Authority in accordance with Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. This process will inform the independent examination of the neighbourhood plan following the completion of the public consultation process.

How will the Plan be Examined?

Neighbourhood Plans are examined against five key tests, referred to as Basic Conditions (as set out in the Localism Act 2011). These are as follows:

- Does the plan have regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State?
- Does the plan contribute to the achievement of sustainable development?
- Is the plan in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the borough of Basingstoke and Deane?
- Does the plan not breach, or is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations?
- Does the plan meet and comply with prescribed conditions, i.e. it is unlikely to have a significant effect on European sites?

What can I comment on at this stage?

At this stage you can comment on any element of the plan and supporting documents and whether the draft Neighbourhood Plan meets the Basic Conditions. It is, however, important to remember that the examiner will only be able to recommend changes to the plan necessary to ensure that it meets the basic conditions.

When making comments you can request that you are notified of the examiner's report and of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's decision under Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) to 'make' the Whitchurch Neighbourhood Development Plan following a community referendum on the Plan. Once a Neighbourhood Plan is made, it will become part of the local area's Development Plan and have the same status as the borough's Local Plan.

How long do I have to comment on the consultation?

The consultation runs for six weeks, from **27 February 2017 until 4pm on 10 April 2017**.

A summary of the responses made to the pre-submission consultation are included in the Consultation Statement submitted with the plan. As a result the examiner will be aware of those comments, so you do not need to repeat the comments already made, although you may if you so wish. Also, if any changes that have been made to the plan since the pre-submission consultation raise new issues or affect the points you made last time, please feel free to submit further comments.

What happens next?

At the end of the publicity period any comments received will be passed on to the examiner who will then carry out independent examination on the neighbourhood plan. The examiner will consider whether the plan meets the Basic Conditions or whether any changes are needed in order to meet those requirements. The examiner will recommend to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council if the plan should proceed to a referendum.

Should I respond as an individual or as part of a group?

Where there are groups who share a common view on the Plan, it is helpful for that group to send a single representation which represents their views, rather than for a large number of individuals to send in separate representations which repeat the same points. In such cases the group should indicate how many people it is representing and how the representation has been authorised.

How do I respond?

1) Using our online consultation system

The online consultation system is our preferred means of receiving comments as it ensures that your comments are summarised and recorded accurately and are processed quickly. We would encourage everyone, including statutory consultees, agents and landowners to use the online consultation system which can be accessed at the following address:

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

2) Responding in writing

If you cannot reply to the consultation using the online consultation system, it would be helpful if you could fill in our response form.

Forms may be:

- Filled in electronically and emailed to us at: local.plan@basingstoke.gov.uk
- Downloaded from our website: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/WNP>
- Or obtained by visiting the council offices: Planning Policy Team, Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, RG21 4AH

The planning policy team is happy to answer any questions regarding the completion of the form (01256 845536 or 845175). If any members of the public have difficulties completing the form, then the planning policy team will accept letters or e-mails. However, any such correspondence should still be specific about which part of the neighbourhood plan is being commented upon.

Where can the Whitchurch Neighbourhood Plan be viewed?

The Submission Whitchurch Neighbourhood Development Plan, Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environment Assessment, Consultation Statement and Basic Conditions Statement can be viewed:

- On the council's website: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/WNP>
- At the council offices: Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke
- Basingstoke Discovery Centre, Whitchurch Library (Gill Nethercott Centre) and Whitchurch Town Council Offices

In addition, the full suite of evidence base documents that support the neighbourhood plan can be viewed on the Whitchurch Neighbourhood Plan website by clicking on the following link: <https://whitchurch-hampshire-tc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/>

Will my comments be made public?

The information collected will be processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. Your details and comments will be forwarded to the examiner for consideration prior to the examination.

As all representations received must be made available for public inspection, they cannot be treated as confidential. They will be posted in full on the council's website and will be available, on request, for public inspection. Personal information such as signatures, addresses, private phone numbers and e-mail addresses will not be published on the council's website. However, that information will be available in the council's reception for viewing purposes only, and photocopies can be made of the representations on request.