

Crookham Village Parish Neighbourhood Plan Referendum – General Note



This statement has been prepared to meet Regulation 4(3)(b)(v) of the Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) Regulations 2012 (as amended)

On **Thursday 6th May 2021** there will be a referendum on a neighbourhood plan for your area, the **Crookham Village Parish Neighbourhood Plan**. This note contains information about the planning system and neighbourhood planning.

The Planning System

The planning system helps decide what gets built, where and when. It is essential for supporting economic growth, providing new homes and protecting the natural environment. Most new buildings, major changes to existing buildings or major changes to the local environment need planning permission. Without a planning system everyone could construct buildings or use land in any way they wanted, no matter what effect this would have on other people who live and work in their area.

Hart District Council is responsible for deciding whether most forms of development should go ahead within the district. Decisions are based on **national planning policy** and the **local development plan**.

National Planning Policy

The National Planning Policy Framework and National Planning Practice Guidance provide policy and guidance for local councils in drawing up Local Plans and on making decisions on planning applications. These can be viewed at <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/>.

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 local authority area. It includes Local Plans

and Neighbourhood Plans and in Hart is currently made up of the following documents:

Development Plan Documents in Hart District :

Plan	Date adopted/made
Hart Local Plan (Strategy and Sites) 2032	30 April 2020
Hart Local Plan (Replacement) 1996-2006 Saved Policies	23 December 2002
South East Plan – Policy NRM6 only	In February 2013 the South East Plan was formally abolished except for Policy NRM6
Hook Neighbourhood Plan	27 February 2020
Hartley Wintney Neighbourhood Plan	28 November 2019
Fleet Neighbourhood Plan	28 November 2019
Dogmersfield Neighbourhood Plan	26 September 2019
Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan	30 March 2017
Odiham and North Warnborough Neighbourhood Plan	29 June 2017
Rotherwick Neighbourhood Plan	15 December 2016
Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan	October 2013

Local Plans

Local Plans for Hart are made by Hart District Council and their preparation involves a process of public consultation and independent examination. The current Local Plan is the Hart Local Plan (Strategy and Sites) 2032 adopted on 30 April 2020. Some policies within the Hart Local Plan 1996 – 2006 remain ‘saved’ and will continue to apply to proposals where relevant. Further details can be found at <https://www.hart.gov.uk/plans-and-policies>

Neighbourhood Plans

What are they?

Neighbourhood plans were introduced under the Localism Act 2011. Their purpose is to give local communities greater influence on future development in their local area by establishing a set of policies which will be used in making decisions on planning applications.

Neighbourhood plans are required by law to meet certain “Basic Conditions”. They must have regard to national planning policy and must generally conform with the strategic policies in the Local Plan. They must contribute to achieving sustainable development and be compatible with EU obligations and human rights requirements. Importantly, they should not be used to prevent development which is allowed for in the Local Plan.

Who makes them?

Neighbourhood plans are prepared by town or parish councils or especially established neighbourhood forums. There is a statutory process that must be followed to make a plan.

How are they made?

The plan must be prepared through a process of consultation with local residents and businesses. An independent examiner then reviews the plan and checks whether it meets the basic conditions and other legal requirements. The examiner reports on whether any modifications should be made to the plan and whether it should proceed to the referendum stage.

At the referendum, local residents can vote on whether the neighbourhood plan should be used to help decide planning applications in the area. All those registered to vote within the neighbourhood area are entitled to vote in the referendum.

What status do Neighbourhood Plans have?

If more than half of those voting have voted in favour of the neighbourhood plan, the local planning authority must make it part of the statutory development plan for the area. This means that the plan will be used as a basis for making decisions on planning applications.

Additional information in relation to neighbourhood planning is available on the following website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/get-involved/take-part/make-a-neighbourhood-plan>

The Crookham Village Parish Neighbourhood Plan

The Crookham Village Parish Neighbourhood Plan has been produced by **Crookham Village Parish Council**. Preparation of the plan has followed the statutory requirements and it has been subject to an independent examination. Hart District Council has decided that, subject to modifications, the plan can proceed to

referendum.

It was originally intended that the referendum would take place in spring 2020, however with the coronavirus pandemic all local elections and referendums were postponed until May 2021. However, planning guidance was amended to give 'significant weight' to the policies in neighbourhood plans which had a successful examination and where a local planning authority had published a decision to proceed to referendum. In the case of Crookham Village parish Neighbourhood Plan, the Council made a decision at its [Cabinet Committee](#) on 2 July 2020 (item 6 refers), to proceed to referendum.

The Referendum

The referendum will take place on Thursday 6 May 2021. Further information can be found on the Crookham Village parish Neighbourhood Plan webpage at <https://www.hart.gov.uk/crookham-village>

How to find out more

Further general information on neighbourhood planning is available on the following websites <https://www.gov.uk/government/get-involved/take-part/make-a-neighbourhood-plan> and at <http://www.hart.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning>.