

Godmanchester

Neighbourhood Plan

Referendum

Information for

Voters

About this booklet

There will be a referendum on a neighbourhood plan for your area. It is to be held on 7th December 2017. In this booklet you can find out about:

- The referendum and how you can take part
- The neighbourhood area
- The neighbourhood plan
- The development plan (of which neighbourhood plans are a part)

Referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan

A referendum asks you to vote YES or NO to a question. For this referendum you will receive a ballot paper with this question:

“Do you want Huntingdonshire District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Godmanchester to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”

How do I vote in the referendum?

You show your choice by putting a cross (X) in the 'YES' or 'NO' box on your ballot paper. Put a cross in only **one** box or your vote will not be counted.

If more people vote 'YES' than 'NO' in this referendum, then Huntingdonshire District Council will use the Neighbourhood Plan to help it decide planning applications in the Godmanchester Town area.

The Neighbourhood Plan will then become part of the adopted Huntingdonshire District Council Local Plan.

If more people vote 'NO' than 'YES', then planning applications will be decided without using the Neighbourhood Plan as part of the Development Plan for the local area.

What is Neighbourhood Planning?

Neighbourhood planning aims to help local communities play a direct role in planning the areas in which they live and work.

A community can prepare a neighbourhood plan. This plan can show how the community wants land to be used and developed in its area.

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 (a group of at least 21 people in areas without Town or Parish Councils)

Who can prepare a Neighbourhood Plan?

Neighbourhood plans are prepared by Town or Parish Councils, or neighbourhood forums.

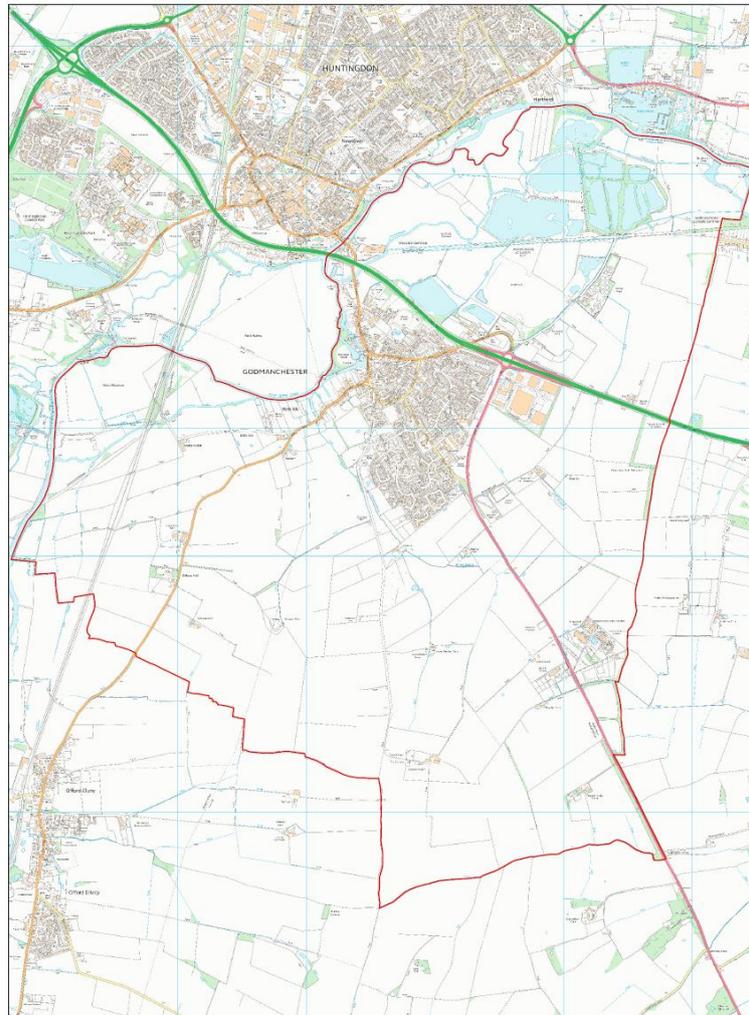
What is a Development Plan?

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.

Neighbourhood Planning in the Town of Godmanchester

The Referendum area is identified on the map below as the parish area of Godmanchester and is identical to the area which has been designated as the Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan area.



Referendum expenses

The referendum expenses limit that will apply in relation to the referendum is **£2,665.61**. The number of persons entitled to vote in the Referendum by Reference to which the limit has been calculated is **5,146**.

Specified documents

A copy of the specified documents, that is the documents listed below, may be viewed on the neighbourhood planning page of the Council's website at

<http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/planning/neighbourhood-planning/>

Paper copies of the specified documents are also available to view at:

- Huntingdonshire District Council, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE29 3TN Monday – Thursday 8.45am – 5.00pm and Friday 8.45am – 4.30pm;
- Godmanchester Town Council Offices, 1 Post Street, Godmanchester, PE29 2NB Monday – Friday 8.00am – 1.30pm

The specified documents are:

- The Godmanchester Neighbourhood Development Plan;
- Report of the independent examiner;
- Summary of the representations submitted to the independent examiner;
- Statement by the local planning authority that the draft plan meets the basic conditions and complies with relevant legislation;
- This information statement;
- A statement that sets out general information about town and country planning and the referendum.

Can I vote?

You can vote in the referendum if you live in the parish of Godmanchester and:

- You are registered to vote in local council elections, and
- You are 18 years of age or over on 7th December 2017.

You have to be registered to vote by **Tuesday, 21st November 2017** to vote in the referendum. You can check if you are registered to vote by calling **01480 388017**.

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

Ways of voting

There are three ways of voting:

In person on : 7th December 2017

Most people vote in person at their local polling station. It is easy and a member of staff will always help if you are not sure what to do.

- You will receive a poll card to advise you about the polling station.
- If you do not receive your poll card, you can contact Electoral Services on **01480 388017**
- Polling stations are open from 7am to 10pm.
- If you are not in the queue at the polling station by 10pm you won't be able to vote, so make sure you arrive in plenty of time.

By post:

- To vote by post, fill in an application form and send it to **Electoral Services, Huntingdonshire District Council, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, Cambs PE29 3TN** to arrive **by 5pm on Wednesday, 22nd November 2017**.
- Ballot papers can be sent overseas, but you need to think about whether you will have time to receive and return your ballot papers by 7th December 2017.
- You should receive your postal vote about a week before polling day. If it doesn't arrive in time, you can get a replacement up to 5pm on 7th December 2017.

By proxy:

- If you can't go to the polling station and don't wish to vote by post, you may be able to vote by proxy. This means allowing somebody you trust to vote on your behalf.
- To vote by proxy, fill in an application form and send it to **Huntingdonshire District Council, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, Cambs PE29 3TN** to arrive **by 5pm on Wednesday, 29th November 2017**.
- When you apply for a proxy vote you must say why you cannot vote in person.
- Anyone can be your proxy as long as they are eligible to vote and are willing to vote on your behalf. You will have to tell them how you want to vote.

Postal and proxy vote application forms are available from Electoral Services on **01480 388017** or for downloading at: <http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/how-do-i-vote>

Am I registered to vote?

- If you're not registered, you won't be able to vote.
- Most people register to vote using the form that local councils send to each household every year.
- If you are not on the electoral register, you will need to go on-line to register at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote or complete an Invitation to Register form and send it to **Electoral Services, Huntingdonshire District Council, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, Cambs PE29 3TN** to arrive no later than **Tuesday, 21st November 2017**.

Invitation to Register forms are available from Electoral Services on 01480 388017 or applications can be submitted online at: www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

How to find out more

- Further general information on neighbourhood planning is available on the following websites <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/neighbourhood-planning>

- You can find the specified documents and a copy of this information statement and the decision statement, on the council's website at: <http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/elections/upcoming-elections-and-results/>
- For queries relating to the neighbourhood plan please contact the Planning Policy team on 01480 388432 or by email: local.plan@huntingdonshire.gov.uk