

**SLIMBRIDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD  
DEVELOPMENT PLAN REFERENDUM**

**THURSDAY 2 MAY 2024**

**INFORMATION  
STATEMENT**

**&**

**INFORMATION FOR  
VOTERS**

## **Information Statement**

A Referendum relating to the adoption of the Slimbridge Neighbourhood Development Plan will be held for the Slimbridge Neighbourhood Area on Thursday 2 May 2024.

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

### **The question asked at the Referendum will be:**

***Do you want Stroud District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Slimbridge to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?***

Electors will 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 Stroud District Council will use the Slimbridge Neighbourhood Development Plan to help it to decide planning applications within that area.

The Neighbourhood Plan once adopted will then become part of the Development Plan used by the Local Planning Authority (Stroud District Council).

If more people vote 'no' than 'yes', in this Referendum or there is a tied vote, then planning applications will continue to 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 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:

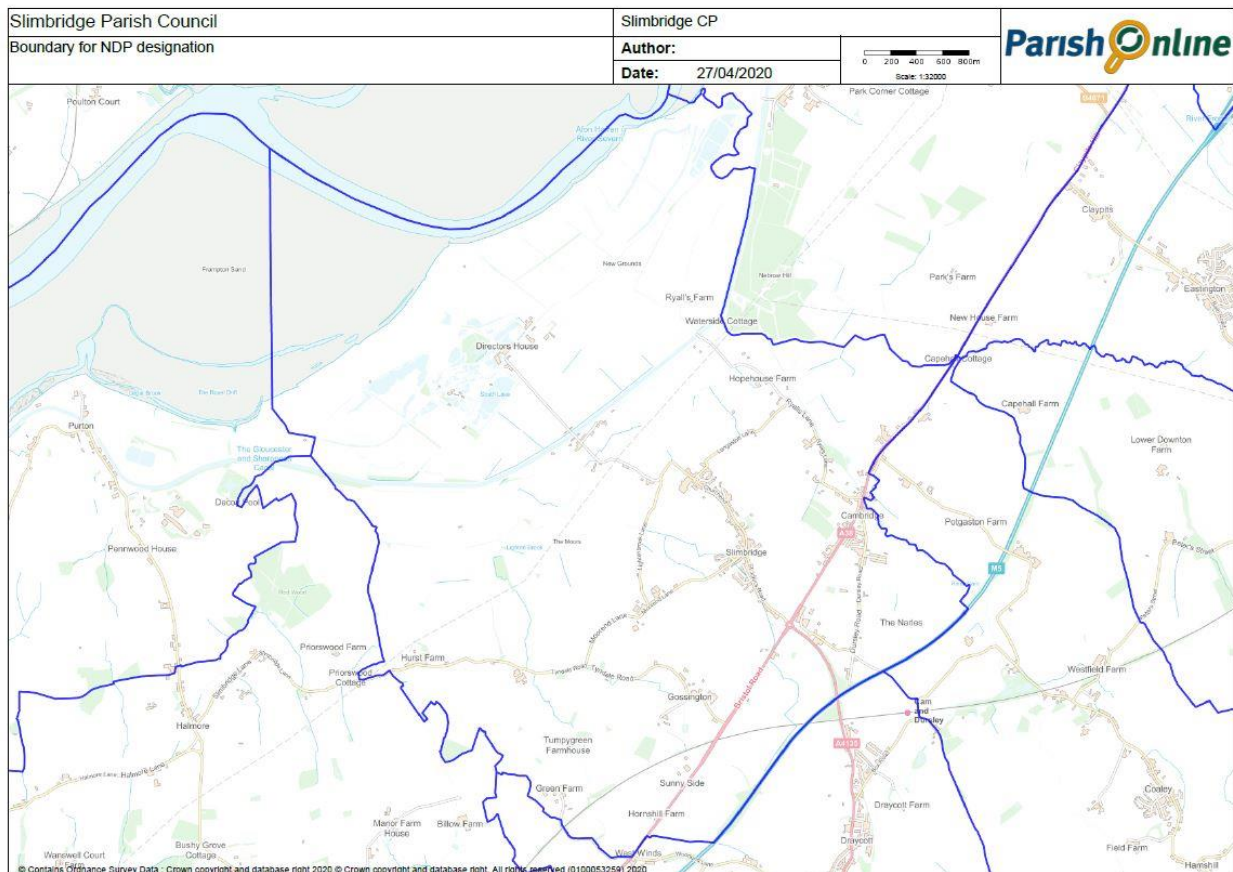
- Town or parish councils
- A neighbourhood forum a group of at least 21 people (in areas without a town or parish council)

### **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.

### **Slimbridge Neighbourhood Area**

The Referendum area is identified on the map below as the parish area of Slimbridge Parish and is the same as the area which has been designated as the Slimbridge Neighbourhood Plan area.



## 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 Slimbridge Neighbourhood Development plan is **£2,419.05**. The number of people entitled to vote in the Referendum by reference to which this limit has been calculated is 967.

## Specified Documents

The following specified documents can be inspected on the Council's website at

[www.stroud.gov.uk/slimbridge-reg-1718](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/slimbridge-reg-1718)

The specified documents will not be made available in paper format unless requested.

### The specified documents are:

- Slimbridge 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 (Decision statement)
- Information Statement and Information for Voters

## 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 2 May 2024.

If you are not registered, you won't be able to vote. You can check if you are registered by calling our Helpline on 01453 766321.

If you are not registered to vote, you can go online to [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) with your national insurance number by midnight on **Tuesday, 16 April 2024**. If you do not have access to the internet, please call 01453 766321.

## How to vote

There are three ways of voting:

- In person on Thursday 2 May 2024 at your local polling station (you will need to present an acceptable form of photographic ID).
- You will receive a poll card confirming either confirming your polling station for this Referendum or your voting arrangement if an absent vote has been set up.
- Polling stations are open from 7am to 10pm.

## Voter ID / Voter Authority Certificate

- Any elector wishing to vote at a polling station must have an acceptable form of photographic ID.
- The full list of accepted ID can be found on our website at [www.stroud.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/elections/voter-id](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/elections/voter-id).
- The ID must resemble a likeness to the elector; however, it can be expired.
- The ID presented at the polling station must be an original copy, electronic copies on electronic devices or photocopies cannot be accepted.
- If you do not have an acceptable form of ID, you can either set up a postal or proxy vote (as listed below), or alternatively you can apply free of charge for a Voter Authority Certificate which is an A4 certificate containing a photograph of yourself used for election purposes only.
- If you choose to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate, you can apply online at [www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate](http://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate) or complete an application with an enclosed photograph and send it to the Electoral Registration Officer to arrive by 5pm, Wednesday 24 April 2024 at the address listed at the end of this document.

## Voting by post

- If you have a postal vote in place you will receive a poll card confirming this.
- If you want to vote by post, you can apply online at [www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote](http://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote) or complete an application form and send it to the Electoral Registration Officer to arrive by 5pm, Wednesday 17 April 2024 at the address listed at the end of this document.
- You do not need to present photographic ID to vote by post.
- Postal votes can be sent overseas but you need to think about whether you will have time to receive and return your completed postal vote by Thursday 2 May 2024.
- 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 Thursday, 2 May 2024 by contacting 01453 766321.

## Voting by proxy

- If you have a proxy vote in place, 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 choose to vote by proxy, the person you appoint to vote on your behalf must present an acceptable form of photographic ID relating to them (not you as the elector) to be issued with your ballot paper.
- If you want to vote by proxy, some applications can be made online at [www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote](https://www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote) or complete an application form and send it to the address below to arrive by 5pm, Wednesday 24 April 2024 at the address listed at the end of this document.
- Postal and proxy vote application forms are available from Stroud District Council's website at: [www.stroud.gov.uk/elections](https://www.stroud.gov.uk/elections) or you can call 01453 766321 or email [elections@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:elections@stroud.gov.uk) to request an application form.

### **How to find out more information**

- Further general information on neighbourhood planning is available at [www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/planning-and-building-control/planning-strategy/neighbourhood-planning](https://www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/planning-and-building-control/planning-strategy/neighbourhood-planning)
- For queries about planning issues and neighbourhood planning in general, please contact [ndp.consultation@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:ndp.consultation@stroud.gov.uk)
- You can find specific documents on Slimbridges Neighbourhood Development Plan at: [www.stroud.gov.uk/slimbridge-reg-1718](https://www.stroud.gov.uk/slimbridge-reg-1718)
- For more information about voting and the arrangements for this Referendum, please contact Stroud District Council on 01453 766321 or email: [elections@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:elections@stroud.gov.uk)

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