

Dinnington St John's Neighbourhood Plan Referendum Information Statement

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

March 2021

1. About this statement

A referendum on the Dinnington Neighbourhood Plan will be held on Thursday, 6 May 2021. This statement provides information on the referendum that is taking place, and the neighbourhood plan it relates to.

2. Referendum on the Dinnington 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 Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Dinnington St. John’s to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”

3. What is the Dinnington Neighbourhood Plan and neighbourhood area?

Neighbourhood plans are planning documents, created by local people, which guide and shape development in a particular area. They form part of the Local Plan and are used when determining planning applications.

A neighbourhood plan must be prepared for a defined area known as the 'neighbourhood area'. The neighbourhood area for Dinnington is identified on the map which is included at the end of this information statement. The boundary of the neighbourhood area was approved by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council on 11 July 2016 and covers the parish of Dinnington St John's.

The Dinnington Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by Dinnington St. John's Town Council. It has been produced in accordance with the statutory requirements and was subject to independent examination which recommended some modifications.

In the Decision Statement published on 30 April 2020 Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council confirmed it was satisfied that, subject to modifications specified in the Examiner's report being made, the Dinnington St John's Neighbourhood Plan meets the legal requirements and basic conditions which neighbourhood plans must meet, and has been recommended to proceed to referendum.

The referendum area is identical to the area which has been designated as the Dinnington St. John's Parish Neighbourhood Area. The independent examiner also recommended that the Plan proceed to a referendum based on the Dinnington Neighbourhood Area, as approved by the Council.

4. Am I entitled to vote in the Referendum?

A person is entitled to vote in the referendum if on the 6 May 2021:

- he or she is entitled to vote in a local government election in the referendum area; and
- his or her qualifying address for the election 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.

In order to vote in the referendum you must be registered to vote by midnight on 19 April 2021. Electors who are currently on the register at a qualifying address do not need to make a new registration application in order to vote at this poll.

5. How do I vote in the Referendum?

In Person

At your Polling Station on Thursday, 6 May 2021. This will be displayed on the Poll Card that will be sent to you. The Polling Station will be open between 7:00 AM and 10:00 PM.

By Post

If you already have a Postal Vote you will receive a Postal Poll card confirming this and your Ballot Paper will be sent to you around 20 April 2021.

By Proxy

Voting by proxy means that you can appoint someone else to vote on your behalf, either by post or at your polling station. This person is called your proxy.

If you already have a permanent Proxy Vote you will receive a Poll Card confirming this in the weeks leading up to the referendum.

Applications for postal or proxy votes

If you would like to vote by post in the referendum please complete a Postal Vote Application form which can be downloaded from

<https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/elections-voting/ways-can-vote/1>

To apply for a proxy vote, both you and your proxy must meet a number of criteria. Further information and an application form is available from

<https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/elections-voting/ways-can-vote/1>

Once completed either return a scanned copy of your postal or proxy application form to electoral.services@rotherham.gov.uk, or deliver it to: Electoral Services, Riverside House, Main Street, Rotherham S60 1AE

The deadline to apply for a new postal vote or to make changes or cancel existing postal and proxy votes is **5pm on Tuesday 20 April 2021**.

The deadline to apply for new proxy votes is **5pm on Tuesday 27 April 2021**.

How to Mark Your Ballot Paper

You will 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 Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council will 'make' the Dinnington Neighbourhood Development Plan. If the Neighbourhood Plan is 'made' it will help determine planning applications in the Dinnington Neighbourhood Area. It will also form part of the statutory development plan for Rotherham.

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 Dinnington Neighbourhood Plan;
- The Dinnington Town Centre Design Support document;
- The independent Examiner's report on the Dinnington Neighbourhood Plan;
- A summary of representations submitted to the independent Examiner following consultation on the 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 on the Council's website at:

<https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/elections-voting/neighbourhood-planning-referendums/1>

Council offices and libraries are currently closed to public access under Government Coronavirus restrictions. Subject to these buildings re-opening in line with Government guidance, a hard copy of all of the above documents and this Information Statement can be inspected at the following locations (during opening hours):

- Dinnington Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Laughton Road, Dinnington, Rotherham, S25 2PP
- Riverside House, Main Street, Rotherham, S60 1AE

Prior to these buildings re-opening, hard copies of the above documents can be made available on request by contacting Planning Policy (see contact details in section 8 below).

7. Referendum Expenses

Individuals or Groups may campaign to promote a particular outcome of the referendum. Spending on the campaigns is restricted by an expenses limit, which campaigners and campaign groups must not exceed.

The referendum expenses limit that will apply in relation to the referendum and the numbers of persons entitled to vote has been calculated as the following:

Expenses Limit: £2,753.94

Persons Entitled to Vote: 6,643 persons

8. How to find out more

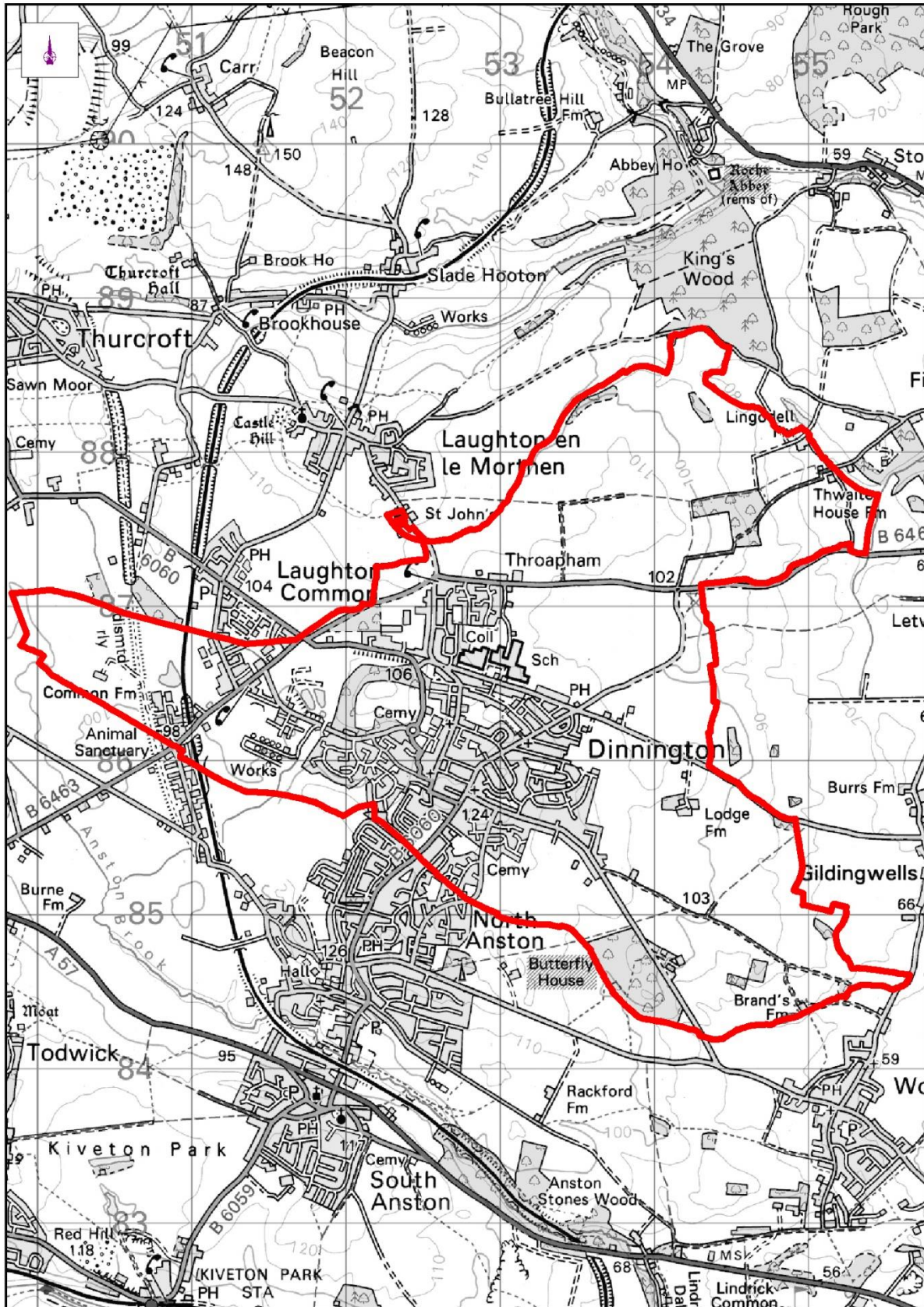
Further general information on neighbourhood planning is available on the council's website at:

<https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/planning-development/neighbourhood-planning/1>

For queries regarding planning issues and neighbourhood planning in general, please contact the Planning Policy Team on 01709 823869 or by email at

planning.policy@rotherham.gov.uk.

Referendum Area



This map is based on the Ordnance Survey Land Line map with the sanction of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright Reserved.