

Malpas and Overton 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 Thursday 7 May 2015. 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 Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for the Malpas and Overton area 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 Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council will use the Neighbourhood Plan to help it decide planning applications in the Malpas and Overton area.

The Neighbourhood Plan will then become part of the development plan for the area, alongside the Chester West and Chester Local Plan.

If more people vote 'no' than 'yes', then planning applications will be decided without using the Neighbourhood Plan.

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 specially established neighbourhood forums.

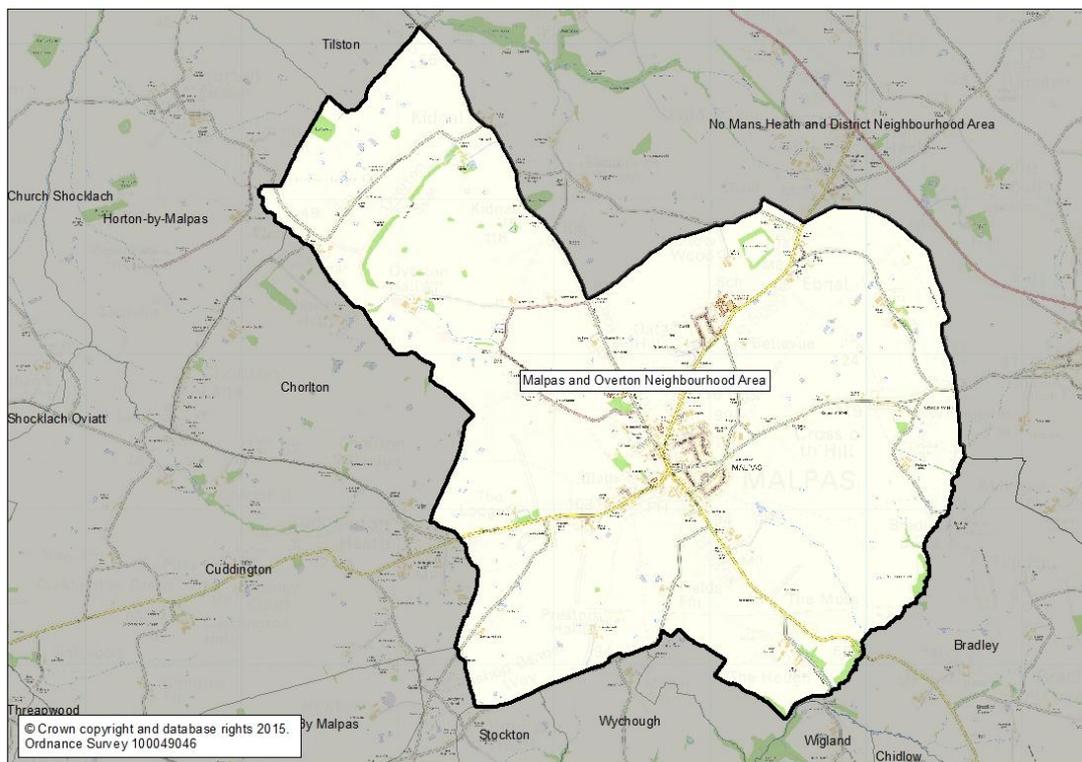
What is a Development Plan?

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 Malpas and Overton

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



Referendum expenses

The referendum expenses limit that will apply in relation to the referendum is £2,454.10. The number of persons entitled to vote in the Referendum by reference to which the limit has been calculated is 1561.

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.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/your_council/voting_and_elections/malpas_and_overton_neighbourho.aspx

The specified documents can also be viewed on computer screens in the One Stop Shop areas at:

- The Forum Office, Chester, CH1 2HS;
- Wyvern House, The Drummer, Winsford, CW7 1AH;
- Council Offices, 4 Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BE

between 8.30am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday.

Paper copies of the specified documents are also available to view between 8.30am and 5.00pm at:

- The Forum Office, Chester, CH1 2HS;
- Wyvern House, The Drummer, Winsford, CW7 1AH;
- Council Offices, 4 Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BE

and at Malpas and Tattenhall libraries during their normal opening hours.

The specified documents are:

- The Malpas and Overton Neighbourhood 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 the relevant legislation;
- A statement that sets out general information about town and country planning including neighbourhood planning and the referendum;
- This information statement.

Can I vote?

You can vote in the referendum if you live in the Neighbourhood Plan area and:

- You are registered to vote in local council elections, and
- You are 18 years of age or over on Thursday 7 May 2015.

You have to be registered to vote by Monday 20 April 2015 to vote in the referendum. You can check if you are registered to vote by calling 01244 977084.

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: Thursday 7 May 2015

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.

- In the Malpas and Overton area the polling station is:

Malpas and Overton Polling Stations
Victoria Jubilee Hall, High Street, Malpas, Cheshire SY14 8NN

- You will receive a poll card to advise you about the polling station.
- If you do not receive your poll card, you can contact Democratic Services on 01244 977084.
- Polling stations are open from 7.00am to 10.00pm.

By post:

- To vote by post, fill in an application form and send it to Democratic Services, Floor 5, HQ Building, 58 Nicholas Street, Chester CH1 2NP to arrive by 5.00pm on Tuesday 21 April 2015.
- 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 Thursday 7 May 2015.
- 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 5.00pm on Thursday 7 May 2015.

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 Democratic Services, Floor 5, HQ Building, 58 Nicholas Street, Chester CH1 2NP to arrive by 5.00pm on Tuesday 28 April 2015.
- 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 can be downloaded from the council's website at

http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/your_council/voting_and_elections/how_to_vote.aspx

or from Democratic Services on 01244 977084.

Am I registered to vote?

- If you're not registered, you won't be able to vote.
- If you are not on the electoral register, you will need to register by going to www.gov.uk/register-to-vote and completing a voter registration form.

You can register by phone by ringing Democratic Services on 01244 977084.

How to find out more

- Further general information on neighbourhood planning is available on the council's website at <http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=15712>
- 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.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/your%20council/policies%20and%20performance/council%20plans%20and%20strategies/planning%20policy/neighbourhood%20planning/malpas%20and%20overton%20neighbourho.aspx>
- For queries relating to the neighbourhood plan please contact neighbourhoodplanning@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk or ring 01244 973887.