

**Cuddington
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 24th January. 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 Cuddington Parish 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 Cuddington Parish area.

The Neighbourhood Plan will then become part of the adopted Cheshire West and Chester 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 specially established neighbourhood forums.

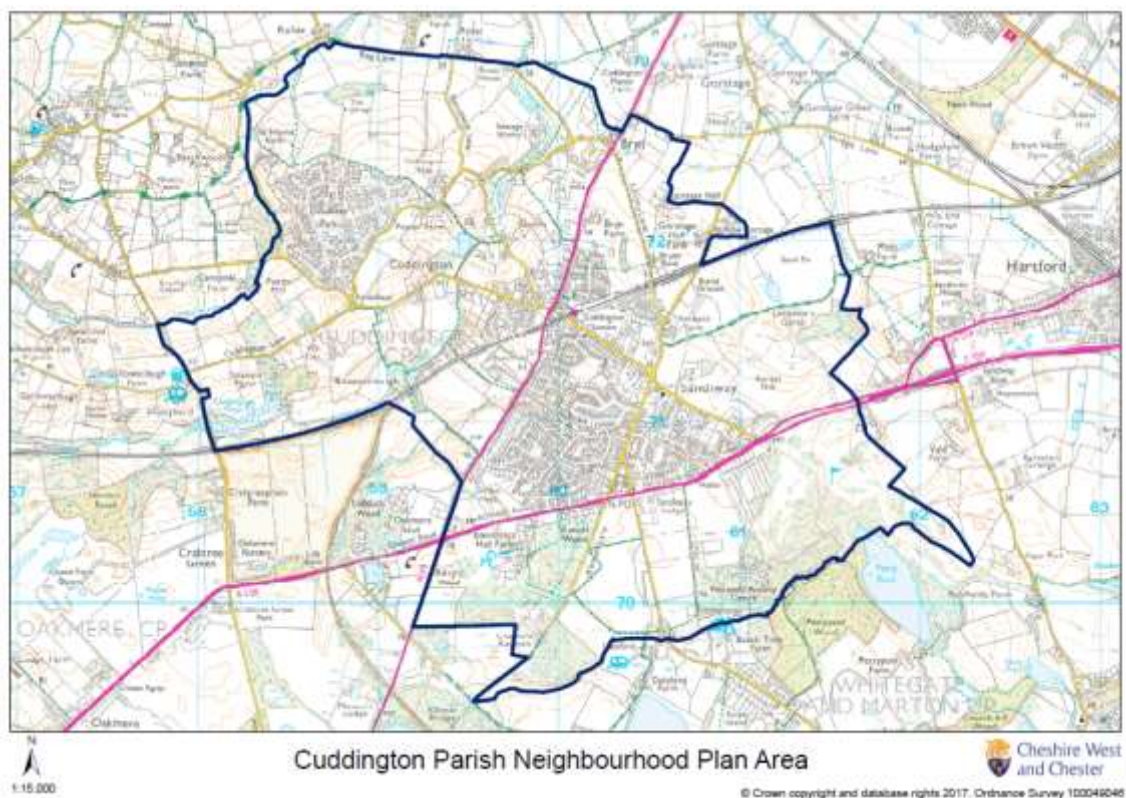
What is a Development Plan?

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 Cuddington

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



Referendum expenses

The referendum expenses limit that will apply in relation to the Referendum is £2,645.49. The number of persons entitled to vote in the Referendum by reference to which the limit has been calculated, is 4,805.

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:

www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning

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;
- Northwich Customer Service Centre, 1 The Arcade, Northwich, CW9 5AS;
- Ellesmere Port Library, Civic Way, Ellesmere Port CH65 0BG
- Neston Library, Parkgate Road, Neston, CH64 6QE; and
- Frodsham Library and Integrated Services, Princeway, Frodsham, WA6 6RX.

All of the above centres are open between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday. Some have longer opening hours – please check the Council's website for details.

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

- Northwich Customer Service Centre, 1, The Arcade, Northwich, CW9 5AS
- Delamere Park Community Centre, 59 Delemere Park Way West, Cuddington, CW8 2UL
- Sandiway Library, Mere Lane, CW8 2NS

during their normal opening hours.

The specified documents are:

- The Cuddington Parish 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;
- 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 24 January 2019.

You have to be registered to vote by Tuesday 8th January 2019 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 24th January 2019

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 Cuddington area the polling stations are:

Cuddington Parish Polling Stations

- Cuddington and Sandiway Village Hall, Norley Road, Cuddington
 - Sandiway Library, Mere Lane, Sandiway
- The Lodge, Delamere Park Community Centre, 59 Delamere Park Way West, Cuddington

- 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.
- The polling station is 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 2, HQ Building, 58 Nicholas Street, Chester CH1 2NP to arrive by 5.00pm on Wednesday 9th January 2019.
- 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 24th January 2019
- You should receive your postal vote about a week before polling day. If it does not arrive in time, you can get a replacement up to 5.00pm on Thursday 24th January 2019.

By proxy:

- If you cannot go to the polling station and do not 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 2, HQ Building, 58 Nicholas Street, Chester CH1 2NP to arrive by 5.00pm on Wednesday 16th January.
- 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 are not registered, you will not 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.

How to find out more

- Further general information on neighbourhood planning is available on the following websites www.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning and at: www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning
- You can find the specified documents and a copy of this information statement and the decision statement , on the Council's website at: www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning
- For queries relating to the Neighbourhood Plan please contact neighbourhoodplanning@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk or ring 01244 973887.

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