

Wells-next-the-Sea Neighbourhood Plan

Referendum Information Statement

30th May 2024



A Referendum relating to the 'making' (bringing into force) of the Wells-next-the-Sea Neighbourhood Development Plan will be held on **Thursday 4th July 2024** at **Wells Methodist Church**, Peter Collingwood Hall, Theatre Road, Wells-Next-Sea, Norfolk NR23 1DJ. The Referendum will be held in tandem with the UK Parliamentary General Election.

A Neighbourhood Plan provides the opportunity for local communities to help shape future development in their local area with regard to the use and development of land. When approved, it will become part of the statutory Development Plan for the designated area (the Parish) and be used in conjunction with the District Council's Local Plan and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) which make up the wider statutory Development Plan for the District, along with national policies and guidance, in the determination of relevant planning applications.

A statutory process must be followed in the production of a neighbourhood plan, which includes the holding of a referendum.

In 2019, Wells-next-the-Sea Town Council (the Qualifying Body) decided to produce a neighbourhood plan for the parish area. The emerging neighbourhood plan underwent local consultation between July and September 2022 and the draft plan was submitted for independent examination in June 2023. The submitted Plan was publicised and representations were invited between October and November 2023. The Plan was subject to independent examination between January and April 2024 with the issuing of a final report 15th April 2024.

The Council have considered each of the recommendations contained in the independent Examiners Report, and the reasons for them, and, having applied the examiners recommended modifications along with necessary consequential changes, issued a Decision Statement on 20th May 2024 confirming that the modified plan can proceed to local referendum.

This statement provides information about:

- The Referendum Question and date;
- The Neighbourhood Area and Referendum Area;
- Who Can Vote;
- The Specified Documents;
- Referendum Expenses;
- Further Information.

The Referendum Question

The question which will be asked in the Referendum is:

‘Do you want North Norfolk District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Wells-next-the-Sea to help it decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area?’

The Referendum will be conducted in accordance with procedures similar to those used at local government and general elections.

If more than half of those voting in the referendum vote “yes” in response to the question above, then the Council have a duty to “make” the Neighbourhood Plan unless it considers that doing so would breach, or otherwise be incompatible with, any EU or human rights obligations (see section 61E(8) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Act as amended).

If more people vote ‘no’ than ‘yes’ then the Neighbourhood Plan will not be adopted and the neighbourhood Plan will not become part of the statutory Development Plan for North Norfolk.

The Neighbourhood Area

The Neighbourhood Area for Wells-next-the-Sea is as shown at the end of this document. The boundary of the Neighbourhood Area was approved by North Norfolk District Council in February 2019 and covers the entirety of the parish of Wells-next-the-Sea.

Who Can Vote

A person is entitled to vote in the Referendum on Thursday 4th July 2024, if:

- they are entitled to vote in a local government election in the Referendum area; and,
- their 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 which they are entitled to be registered; and,
- they have registered to vote and are entered to the local government register of electors by the registration deadline of Tuesday 18th June 2024 at 23:59pm
- they show an accepted form of photographic identification at the polling station. The requirement for voter id was introduced through the Elections Act 2022. Further information can be found at www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/voterid

Voting by **post** or by **proxy** is available for this referendum. Any person who is registered to vote in North Norfolk can apply online for a postal vote at www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote or a proxy vote at www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote.

If required, application forms for postal or proxy voting can also be downloaded and returned by post or email. Completed applications to vote by post or by proxy (including changes to existing postal or proxy voting arrangements) should be returned to North Norfolk District Council, Holt Road, Cromer, NR27 9EN or by email to postalvotes@north-norfolk.gov.uk.

- Applications to vote by post (including changes to existing postal or proxy voting arrangements) must be received by 5pm, Wednesday 19th June.
- New applications to vote by proxy must be received by 5pm, Wednesday 26th June.

The Specified Documents

A number of documents are available to view as part of the Referendum:

- The Referendum Information Statement (this document);
- A statement that sets out general information in respect of town and country planning, which includes neighbourhood planning and the Referendum;
- The Referendum Version of the Wells-next-the-Sea Neighbourhood Development Plan (Draft Plan) and related documents.
- Map of the Neighbourhood Plan Area (see page 4).
- A Decision Statement from the Local Planning Authority which confirms the Draft Neighbourhood Plan (Referendum Version) meets the basic conditions and other legislative requirements. It also confirms that the Plan can proceed to Referendum;
- The report made by the independent examiner under paragraph 10 of Schedule 4B to the 1990 (in the case of a neighbourhood plan, as applied by section 38A(3) of the 2004 Act);
- The representations submitted to the independent examiner following consultation on the Submitted Plan;

The specified documents above along with other procedural and factual documents are available for public viewing at www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/wellsnp. The documents may also be inspected during normal opening hours at North Norfolk District Council Offices, Holt Road, Cromer, NR27 9EN.

Reference copies are also available from Wells-next-the-Sea Town Council and are also published alongside further information at <https://wellstowncouncil.gov.uk>

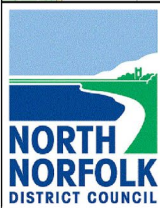
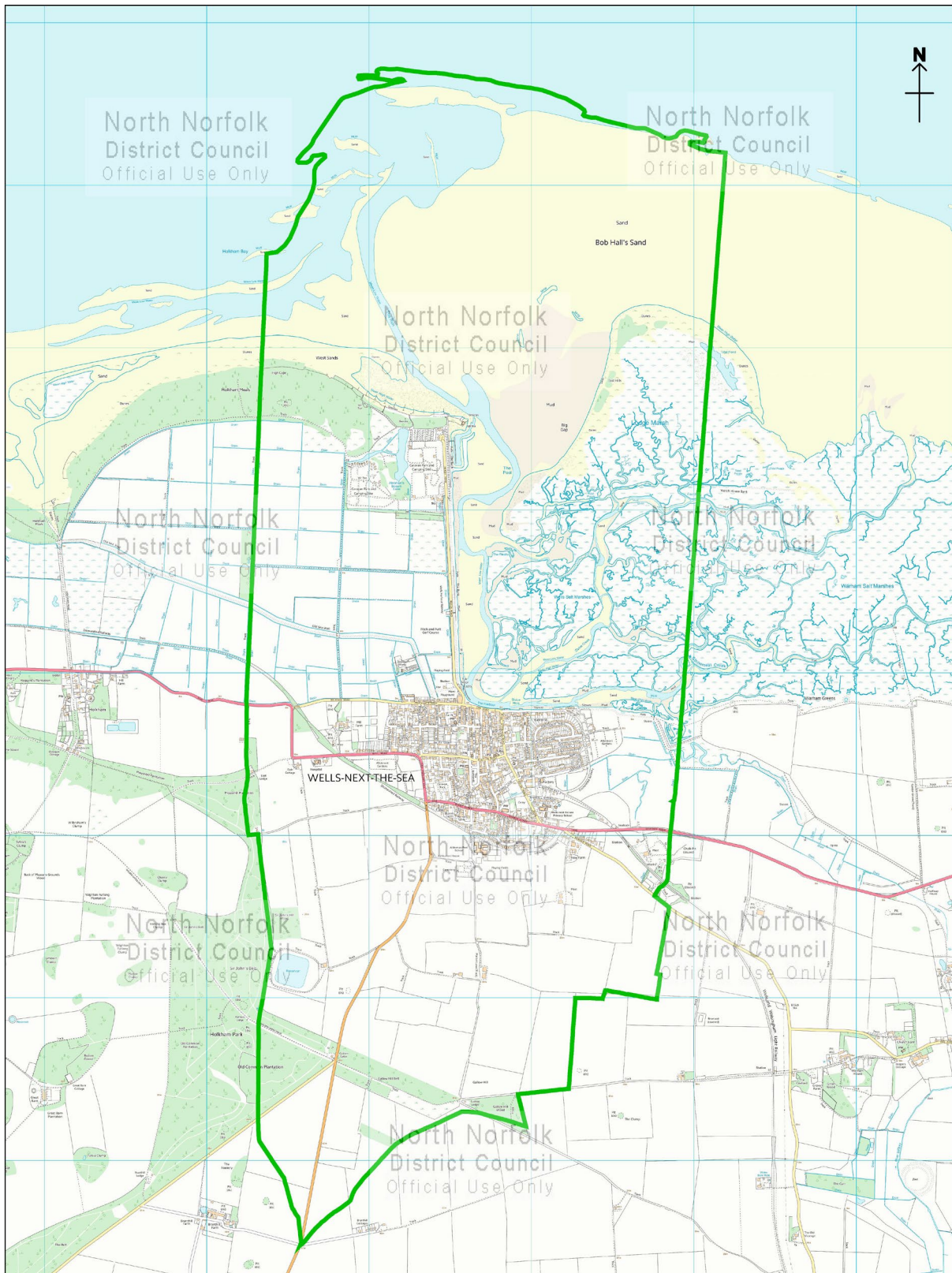
Referendum Expenses

The Referendum expenses limit for campaign organisers in relation to [The Neighbourhood Planning \(Referendums\) Regulations 2012](#) is £2462.54, which has been calculated on the basis of 1704 electors as of 29/05/2024. The expenses incurred by or on behalf of any individual or body during the referendum period must not exceed this limit.

Further Information

- For queries about the Neighbourhood Plan please contact the Town Clerk clerk@wellstowncouncil.gov.uk or 01328 710564.
- For queries about voting and the Referendum arrangements please contact the Electoral Services Team: electoralservices@north-norfolk.gov.uk or 01263 513811.
- Further general information on neighbourhood planning, documents relating to the Neighbourhood Plan, and other emerging Neighbourhood Plans can be found at www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplans
- For queries about planning policy and neighbourhood planning in general, please contact planningpolicy@north-norfolk.gov.uk

The Referendum Area



**Wells-Next-The-Sea
Neighbourhood Area**

Map Key

- Boundary of Neighbourhood Area

1:22,500

CB

09/10/2018

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