

Blakeney Neighbourhood Plan

Referendum Information Statement

27.7.23



A Referendum relating to the making (brought into force) of the Blakeney Neighbourhood Development Plan will be held on Thursday 14th September 2023 at Blakeney Village Hall.

A Neighbourhood Plan provides the opportunity for local communities to help shape future development in their local area in regard to the use and development of land. Once made 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 that make up the wider statutory Development Plan for the District along with national policies and guidance in the determination of relevant planning applications.

There is a statutory process that must be followed in the production of a neighbourhood plan, and this includes holding a referendum.

In 2017 Blakeney Parish Council (The Qualifying Body) decided to produce a neighbourhood plan for the parish area. The emerging neighbourhood plan underwent consultation in October 2019 and the draft plan dated July 2021 was submitted for independent examination in November 2021. The submitted Plan was publicised and representations were invited between 28th March 2022 and 9th May 2022. The Plan was subject to independent examination between 4th July 2022 and 19th January 2023 with the issuing of a final report on that day. An interim Decision Statement issued on 17.2.2023 gave notice that the Council intended to modify the draft neighbourhood plan in line with the examiner's recommendations but that in the opinion of the Local Planning Authority, LPA, further modifications were also necessary. The Council sought representations on the additional proposed modifications for a six-week period between 23.02.23 and 6.4.2023. The Council considered the representations received on the additional modifications and subject to the incorporation of the recommended modifications set out in the examiners report along with the additional modifications consulted on, and the necessary factual and consequential changes to the supporting text agreed that the Blakeney Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to public referendum. A final Decision Statement was issued on 29.6.2023.

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 Blakeney 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 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 European Union Obligations.

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 Blakeney is as shown at the end of this document. The boundary of the Neighbourhood Area was approved by North Norfolk District Council in November 2017 and covers the entirety of the parish of Blakeney.

Who Can Vote

A person is entitled to vote in the Referendum if on Thursday 14th September 2023:

- 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.
- 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 is available for this referendum and anyone who is registered can request a postal vote application form at www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/elections. An application form can be requested by emailing postalvotes@north-norfolk.gov.uk or by calling 01263 516046.

Completed applications to vote by post should be returned to North Norfolk District Council, Holt Road, Cromer, NR27 9EN or by email to postalvotes@north-norfolk.gov.uk, and must be received by 5pm, Wednesday 30th August 2023.

Proxy voting is also available by requesting an application form via the methods stated above. Applications to vote by proxy must be received by 5pm Wednesday 6th September 2023.

The Specified Documents

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

- The Referendum Information Statement (this document);
- The Referendum Version of the Blakeney Neighbourhood Development Plan (Draft Plan);
- 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;
- A statement that sets out general information in respect of town and country planning, which includes neighbourhood planning and the Referendum;
- Map of the Blakeney Neighbourhood Plan Area.

The specified documents above along with other procedural and factual documents are available for public viewing at www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/blakeneynp. 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 Blakeney Town Council and publicised along with further information on the Parish council website [Blakeney Parish Council and Blakeney Village, North Norfolk](http://www.blakeneyparishcouncil.org.uk).

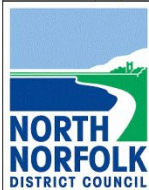
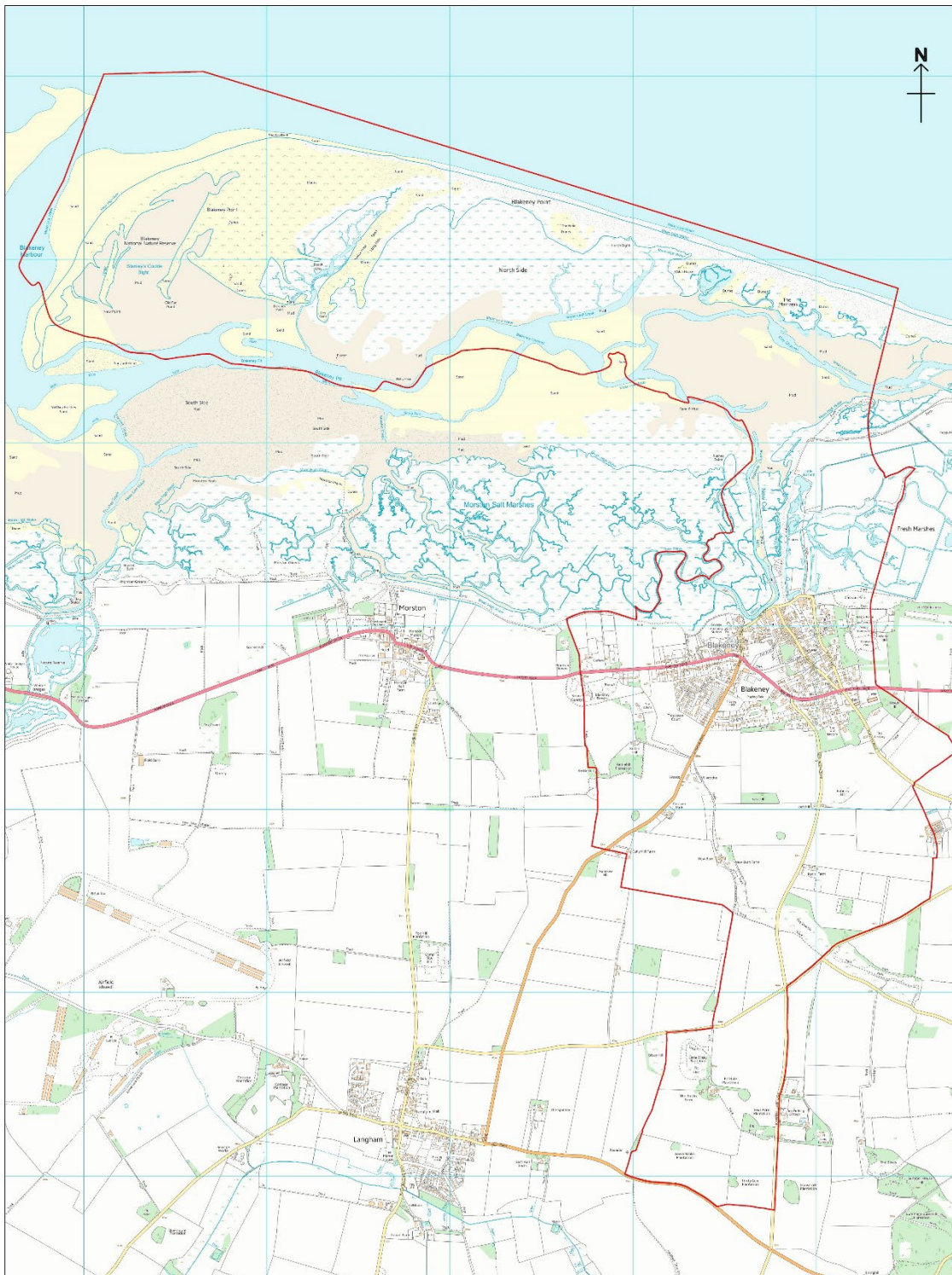
Referendum Expenses

The Referendum expenses limit in relation to [The Neighbourhood Planning \(Referendums\) Regulations 2012](#) is £2396.04 which has been calculated on the basis of £2362+ 0.059 per elector based on the July register (577 electors) on 11/07/2023.

Further Information

- **For queries about the Blakeney neighbourhood Plan please contact the parish Clerk** clerk@blakeneyparishcouncil.org.uk Tel: 01263 741106
- Further general information on neighbourhood planning, documents relating to the Blakeney 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
- For queries about voting and the Referendum arrangements please contact the Electoral Services Team: elections@north-norfolk.gov.uk | 01263 516046

Referendum Area



Blakeney Neighbourhood Area

Map Key

 Boundary of Neighbourhood Area

1:20,000

CB

21/12/2017

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