

Royal Leamington Spa Neighbourhood Plan Referendum

Information Statement for Voters

On 6 May 2021, there will be a referendum on a neighbourhood plan in Royal Leamington Spa. This statement explains more about the referendum and how you can take part in it.

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 Warwick District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Royal Leamington Spa to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”

How do I vote in the referendum?

You vote 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 Warwick District Council will use the Neighbourhood Development Plan to help it decide planning applications in this local area.

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

The boundary of the Royal Leamington Spa neighbourhood area was determined by Warwick District Council.

Who can prepare a Neighbourhood Plan?

Neighbourhood plans are prepared by town or parish councils, or neighbourhood forums. In this case, the Royal Leamington Spa Neighbourhood Plan was prepared by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group on behalf of the Royal Leamington Spa Town Council.

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. Within the Warwick District, the local planning authority is Warwick District Council.

Neighbourhood Planning in Royal Leamington Spa

The Referendum area is identified on the map (appendix 1).

Referendum expenses

Expenses can be incurred by an individual or body during the period of the referendum for referendum purposes. The Referendum expenses limit that will apply in relation to this Referendum is **£4501**. The number of persons entitled to vote in the Referendum by reference to which the limit has been calculated is **36259**.

Expenses mean the expenses incurred by or on behalf of any individual or body during the referendum period in relation to:

- Advertising of any nature
- Unsolicited material addressed to voters
- Information about the referendum, information about the question, arguments for and against
- Market research or canvassing
- Provision of any property, services or facilities in connection with press conferences or dealings with the media
- Transport (by any means) of persons to anywhere with a view to obtaining publicity in connection with a referendum campaign
- Rallies and other events, including public meetings.
- Expenses also include any notional expenses, where property, services or facilities are provided free of charge or at a discount.

Campaigning groups are encouraged to submit a statement of expenses to the Counting Officer, Warwick District Council, Riverside House, Milverton Hill, Royal Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV32 5HZ

It is an offence for a campaign organiser to exceed the referendum expenses limits and if found guilty would be liable to a fine of up to £5,000 and/or imprisonment of up to 12 months.

Specified documents

A copy of the Royal Leamington Spa Neighbourhood Development Plan and Examiner's Report may be inspected on Warwick District Council's website at:

www.warwickdc.gov.uk/info/20444/neighbourhood_plans/1096/royal_leamington_sp_a

or on the Town Council website: www.leafingtonspatowncouncil.gov.uk

Can I vote?

You can vote in the referendum if you live in the Royal Leamington Spa area as identified in the map and:

- you are registered to vote in local council elections, and
- you are 18 years of age or over on 6 May 2021

You have to be registered to vote by **Monday 19 April 2021** to vote in the referendum. You can check if you are registered to vote by calling our helpline on (01926) 456105.

The referendum will be conducted based on procedures which are similar to those used at local government elections.

Ways of voting?

There are three ways of voting:

In person:

In person at the polling station on Thursday 6 May 2021, it is easy and a member of staff will always help if you are not sure what to do.

Polling Districts	Polling Place
WGA	Westbury Community Centre STATION A, Westlea Road, Royal Leamington Spa
WGB	Brunswick Hub STATION A, 98-100 Shrubland Street
WGC	Church Hall, St John the Baptist Church, Tachbrook Street
WGD	Brunswick Hub STATION B, 98-100 Shrubland Street
WGE	Westbury Community Centre STATION B, Westlea Road, Royal Leamington Spa
WGF	St. Margarets Centre STATION B, Egford Room, Whitnash Road
WHB	Dale Street Methodist Church STATION B, Dale Street, Royal Leamington Spa
WHE	The Dormer Conference Centre STATION B, St Peter Apostle Roman Catholic Church, Dormer Place

WHA	Dale Street Methodist Church STATION A, Dale Street, Royal Leamington Spa
WHC	St. Paul's Church Hall STATION A, Leicester Street, Royal Leamington Spa
WHD	The Dormer Conference Centre STATION A, St Peter Apostle Roman Catholic Church, Dormer Place
WHF	Holy Trinity Parish Hall , Trinity Street (Car Park Entrance), Royal Leamington Spa
WHG	St. Paul's Church Hall STATION B, Leicester Street, Royal Leamington Spa
WKF	Holy Trinity Parish Hall STATION D, Bethany Room, Trinity Street Entrance
KKA,WKB	The Octagon, St. Mary Magdalene, Vicarage Road
WKD	St. Mark`s Church STATION C, Entrance only by side door right of Main Doors, St. Mark`s Road
WJF	Lillington Free Church Hall STATION A, Cubbington Road
WKA	Edmondscote Athletic Track Pavilion, River Close, Off Edmondscote Road
WKC	St. Mark`s Church Hall , St. Mark's Road, Royal Leamington Spa
KKC,WKD	St. Mark`s Church STATION D, Entrance only by side door right of Main Doors, St. Mark`s Road
WKE	Holy Trinity Parish Hall STATION A, Trinity Street (Car Park Entrance), Royal Leamington Spa
WJA	Acorn Court Community & Dining Room, Acorn Court, Stockton Grove
WJB	Lillington Children & Family Centre, Use rear entrance through car park off Valley Road, Mason Avenue
WJC	Lillington Youth Centre STATION A, Mason Avenue, Royal Leamington Spa
WJD	Lillington Youth Centre STATION B, Mason Avenue, Royal Leamington Spa
WJE	Telford Junior School , (School Hall), Telford Avenue
WJG	Lillington Free Church Hall STATION B, Cubbington Road, Royal Leamington Spa
WLA	Radford Road Church, Rear Church Hall, Radford Road
WLB	St. Mary's Church Centre STATION A, St. Mary's Road, Royal Leamington Spa
WLC	St. Mary's Church Centre STATION B, St. Mary's Road, Royal Leamington Spa

WLD	Sydni Centre (Seminar Room) STATION D, Cottage Square, Off Marloes Walk
WLE	Sydni Centre (Main Hall) STATION C, Cottage Square, Off Marloes Walk
WLF	Sydni Centre (Main Hall) STATION B, Cottage Square, Off Marloes Walk

You will receive a poll card confirming your polling station for this referendum. If you do not receive your poll card you can contact our helpline on (01926) 456105 or email us on elections@warwickdc.gov.uk.

Polling stations will be open from 7am to 10pm.

By post:

- If you have a postal vote already, you will receive a poll card confirming this,
- To vote by post, you will need to complete an application form and send it to the Electoral Registration Officer to arrive **by 5pm on Tuesday 20 April 2021** at this address:

Warwick District Council
Riverside House, Milverton Hill
Royal Leamington Spa
Warwickshire
CV32 5HZ

Postal votes can be sent overseas but you need to think about whether you will have time to receive and return your completed postal vote by close of poll on 6 May 2021.

You should receive your postal vote around 13 April 2021. If it does not arrive, you can ask for a replacement from Thursday 29 April up to 5pm on 6 May 2021 by contacting our helpline on (01926) 456105.

By proxy:

- If you have a proxy vote already, your proxy will receive a poll card confirming this,
- If you cannot get to the polling station and do not wish to vote by post, you may be able to vote by proxy. This means appointing someone to vote on your behalf.
- To vote by proxy, you will need to complete an application form and send it to the Electoral Registration Officer to arrive **by 5pm on Tuesday 27 April 2021** at this address:

Warwick District Council
Riverside House, Milverton Hill
Royal Leamington Spa
Warwickshire CV32 5HZ

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 are available from our helpline on (01926) 456105 or by emailing: elections@warwickdc.gov.uk or visit: www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voter

Am I registered to vote?

If you're not registered, you won't be able to vote. You can check if you are registered by calling our helpline on (01926) 456105.

If you are not registered to vote, you can register on line at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote or you will need to complete a voter registration form and send it to the Electoral Registration Officer to arrive **by midnight on Monday 19 April 2021** at this address:

Warwick District Council
Riverside House, Milverton Hill
Royal Leamington Spa
Warwickshire
CV32 5HZ

Registration forms are available from our helpline on (01926) 456105 or by emailing elections@warwickdc.gov.uk or register on line at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

How to find out more:

- Further general information on neighbourhood planning is available at www.warwickdc.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplans
- For queries relating to Royal Leamington Spa neighbourhood plan and neighbourhood planning in general, please contact the council's development team on (01926) 456331.
- For more information about voting and the arrangements for this referendum, please contact our helpline on (01926) 456105 or email: elections@warwickdc.gov.uk

Dated 16 March 2021

Royal Leamington Spa Neighbourhood Development Area Map

Figure 1. Designated Neighbourhood Area

