



Hazlemere Neighbourhood Plan Referendum General information for voters

About this leaflet

On Thursday 9 November 2023 there will be a referendum on a neighbourhood development plan for Hazlemere Parish. This leaflet explains more about the referendum that is going to take place 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 Buckinghamshire Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Hazlemere 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 Buckinghamshire Council will use the Neighbourhood Development Plan to help it decide planning applications in Hazlemere Parish.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan once 'Made' (adopted) will become part of the Development Plan. In the former Wycombe District Council area that Hazlemere Parish falls in, the development plan currently consists of the adopted Wycombe Local Plan and the Buckinghamshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2016-2036.

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 a parish or town council or a neighbourhood forum (a group of at least 21 people in areas without parish councils).

In the Hazlemere Neighbourhood Plan, the boundary of the neighbourhood area was determined by the Buckinghamshire District Council and is identical to the parish area of Hazlemere (see below).

Hazlemere Neighbourhood Area map



Who can prepare a Neighbourhood Plan?

Neighbourhood plans are prepared by town or parish councils, or neighbourhood forums. In this case, the Hazlemere Neighbourhood Plan was prepared by Hazlemere Parish 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.

Who is the Planning Authority?

Within Buckinghamshire, the local planning authority is Buckinghamshire Council. Buckinghamshire Council is the lead authority for Neighbourhood Planning matters, including for carrying out Neighbourhood Planning Referendums.

Why are residents of Holmer Green able to vote in the referendum when the plan only relates to Hazlemere Parish?

Some of the policy in the Hazlemere Neighbourhood Plan relates to a site that sits on the border between Hazlemere and Holmer Green. It was therefore decided that it would be appropriate to give residents in Holmer Green an opportunity to vote in the referendum.

Can I Vote?

You can vote in the referendum if the following apply:

- You live in the parish of Hazlemere or in the Holmer Green polling district.
- You are registered to vote in local council elections or you register to vote by Tuesday 24 October 2023. You can check if you are registered to vote by calling 01296 798141 or emailing elections@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
- You are 18 years of age or over on Thursday 9th November 2023
- When voting in person, you have a valid form of ID. To see which types of ID are valid or to get an ID for this referendum visit: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>

The referendum will be conducted in accordance with procedures which are similar to those used at local government elections.

How to Vote

There are three ways of voting:

In person on Thursday 9 November 2023:

- Most people vote in person at their local polling station. It is easy and a member of staff will always be happy to help if you are not sure what to do.
- You will receive a polling card telling you where your polling station is, but you do not need a poll card to vote.
- You will need ID to vote, further details on how to get an ID and the types that are valid can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>
- Applications for a Voter Authority Certificate need to be sent by 5 p.m. on Wednesday 1 November 2023: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>
- The Polling Stations will be open from 7am to 10pm, a polling card will be sent out to you with the address of your nearest polling station.

By post:

- To vote by post, you will need to complete and return an application form. Application forms and instructions are available on the Electoral Commissions website [I am a voter - how to cast your vote](#)
- Completed applications for this election must arrive by 5 p.m. on Wednesday 25 October 2023.

- You should receive your postal vote about a week before polling day. If you have not received it in time, you can get a replacement up to **5pm on polling day**.

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 you will need to complete and return an application form. Application forms and instructions are available on the Electoral Commission's website [I am a voter - voting in person by post or proxy voting](#).
- Completed applications for this election must arrive by 5 p.m. on Wednesday 1 November 2023.
- 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 on the Electoral Register and are willing to vote on your behalf. You do need to tell them how you want to vote.

If you cannot access the Council's website, application forms are available from the election team, by calling 01296 798141