

RINGSTEAD NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE PLANNING SYSTEM AND THE REFERENDUM

This statement has been prepared to meet the requirements of Regulation 4 (3) (b) (v) of the Neighbourhood Planning (Referendum) Regulations 2012 (as amended). The purpose of the statement is to set out general information about town and country planning, including neighbourhood planning, and to provide general information about the referendum.

The Planning System

The role of the planning system is to ensure that development happens in the right place and at the right time. It identifies what type of development is needed and where and also identifies areas which need to be protected or enhanced. The planning system assesses whether proposed development is suitable.

The planning system includes plan making and managing development. Plan making involves preparing a plan or plans for an area which set out how an area will develop over time to guide future development. Managing development involves determining whether proposed development should be allowed through the granting of planning permission.

North Northamptonshire Council is responsible for making decisions on whether applications for planning permission are appropriate. The starting point for decision making is the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Material considerations include National Planning Policy and Guidance.

There are a number of planning policies which cover the Ringstead Neighbourhood Area:

National Planning Policy and Guidance

The updated National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published on the 20 July 2021.

The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. The framework gives guidance to local planning authorities in drawing up development plans and on making decisions on planning applications. The NPPF includes a presumption in favour of sustainable development and sets out core planning principles to be followed which include environmental, social and economic aspects. The national Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) supports the NPPF and provides further guidance on planning issues, including neighbourhood planning.

Development Plan

The adopted Development Plan for the Ringstead Neighbourhood Area currently includes:

- The North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (Adopted July 2016)
- The emerging Part 2 Local Plan for East Northamptonshire (Examination held April/ May 2022)

Further information on the Development Plan is available using the following link:

https://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/info/200193/adopted_local_plan/65/development_plan_documents

Neighbourhood Planning

Neighbourhood Planning is a relatively new area of planning introduced under the Localism Act 2011, which gives local communities the power to develop a Neighbourhood Plan which sets out a vision for their neighbourhood and which shapes the development and growth on their local neighbourhood area.

Neighbourhood Plans need to align with strategic needs and priorities for the wider local area. They are an opportunity for local communities to ensure that they get the right types of development for their community

Neighbourhood Planning can be used to:

- Set planning policies through a neighbourhood plan that is used in determining planning applications.
- Grant planning permission through Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders for specific development which complies with the order.

Ringstead Parish Council has prepared a Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan sets out a vision and objectives and policies to achieve this vision.

Once a neighbourhood plan has successfully passed an examination, achieved local support through a successful referendum and has been 'made' by the Local Planning Authority, it will form part of the statutory development plan. The development plan is used by the local planning authority in determining planning applications.

Referendum

If more than half of those voting in the Referendum vote in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan then the Local Planning Authority must make the neighbourhood plan.

Once made, the neighbourhood plan will be part of the statutory development plan and will be used in determining decisions on planning applications.

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

A person is entitled to vote if on 30 June 2022:

- He or she are entitled to vote in an election of any Councillor of North Northamptonshire Council whose area is the Referendum area; and
- His or her qualifying address for the election is in the Referendum area.

The last date to register in time to vote in the referendum is 14 June 2022.

The referendum asks you to vote 'Yes' or 'No' on one specific question in relation to the Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan:

'Do you want North Northamptonshire Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Ringstead to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'

The referendum area is shown on a map attached to the Information Statement for the Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan.

Further information on elections and how to register to vote may be found on the Council's website at: <https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/elections-and-voting>