

# Burton Green Neighbourhood Plan Referendum

## Information Statement for Voters

On Thursday 24 March 2022, there will be a referendum on a neighbourhood plan in Burton Green. 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 Burton Green 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 Burton Green 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 Burton Green Neighbourhood Plan was prepared by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group on behalf of the Burton Green 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. Within the Warwick District, the local planning authority is Warwick District Council.

## Neighbourhood Planning in Burton Green

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 **£2414.69**. The number of persons entitled to vote in the Referendum by reference to which the limit has been calculated is **893**.

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 Burton Green Neighbourhood Development Plan and Examiner's Report may be inspected on Warwick District Council's website at:

[https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/info/20444/neighbourhood\\_plans/959/burton\\_green](https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/info/20444/neighbourhood_plans/959/burton_green)

or on the Parish Council website: <https://www.burtongreenparishcouncil.org>

## Can I vote?

You can vote in the referendum if you live in the Burton Green 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 Thursday 24 March 2022

You have to be registered to vote by **Tuesday 8 March 2022** 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 24 March 2022, it is easy and a member of staff will always help if you are not sure what to do.

<b>Polling Districts</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>
KDA	Burton Green Village Hall, Hodgett's Lane, Burton Green

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](mailto:elections@warwickdc.gov.uk).

The polling station 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 Wednesday 9 March 2022** 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 Thursday 24 March 2022.

You should receive your postal vote around Friday 11 March 2022. If it does not arrive, you can ask for a replacement from Friday 18 March 2022 up to 5pm on Thursday 24 March 2022 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 Wednesday 16 March 2022** 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](mailto:elections@warwickdc.gov.uk) or visit: [www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voter](http://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](http://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 Tuesday 8 March 2022** 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](mailto:elections@warwickdc.gov.uk) or register on line at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote).

## **How to find out more:**

- Further general information on neighbourhood planning is available at [https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/info/20444/neighbourhood\\_plans/959/burton\\_green](https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/info/20444/neighbourhood_plans/959/burton_green)

Or visit the Burton Green Parish Council website:

<https://www.burtongreenparishcouncil.org/>

- For queries relating to Burton Green neighbourhood plan and neighbourhood planning in general, please contact the council's development team on (01926) 456330.
- For more information about voting and the arrangements for this referendum, please contact our helpline on (01926) 456105 or email: [elections@warwickdc.gov.uk](mailto:elections@warwickdc.gov.uk)

Dated Monday 14 February 2022

Appendix 1

# Burton Green Neighbourhood Development Area Map

