



INFORMATION FOR VOTERS

POOLE QUAYS FORUM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REFERENDUM

On **Thursday 2 February 2017**, there will be a referendum on a neighbourhood development plan for your area. This information explains more about the referendum that is going to take place and how you can take part. In this information you can find out about:

- The referendum and how you can take part
- The neighbourhood area
- The neighbourhood plan
- The development plan (of which neighbourhood plans form part)

Referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan

A referendum asks you to vote 'yes' or 'no' to a question. For this referendum you will receive a poll card paper asking:

'Do you want Borough of Poole to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Poole Quays Forum to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'

How and where do I vote?

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.

Referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan for Poole Quays Forum	
Do you want the Borough of Poole to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Poole Quays Forum to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?	
Vote only ONCE by marking a cross (X) in the box next to your choice	
YES	
NO	

Figure 1: Sample Ballot Paper

There are three polling stations where you can vote in person and, if you are eligible to vote you will be advised which of the polling stations to attend.

- Hamworthy Library, Blandford Road, BH15 4BG
- St James' Church, Church Street, BH15 1JN
- Skinner Street United Reformed Church, 5 Skinner Street, BH15 1RQ

If more people vote “yes” than “no” in this referendum, then Borough of Poole will use the Neighbourhood Plan to help it decide planning applications within the neighbourhood area. If more people vote “no” than “yes” then planning applications will be decided without using the Neighbourhood Plan but in accordance with the adopted Poole Local Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

The neighbourhood plan boundary was approved by the Borough of Poole on 9 July 2013. Figure 2 shows the extent of the neighbourhood plan area which is also the referendum area.

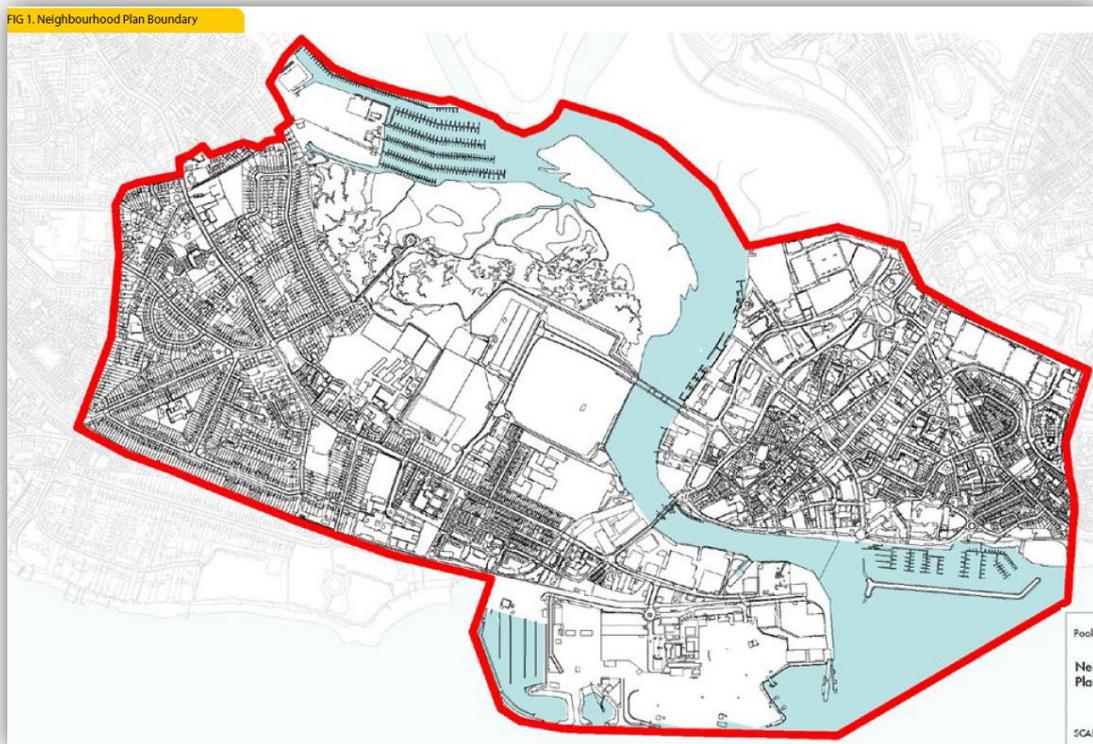


Figure 2: Map of the Poole Quays Forum Neighbourhood Plan Area

The Neighbourhood Plan

Producing a ‘Neighbourhood Development Plan’ provides an exciting opportunity for communities to become directly involved in planning policy. A plan allows the local community to create a vision and planning policies for the use and development of land to establish the requirements for planning within their area. Neighbourhood Plans can set out what new development proposals should look like, depending on what is important to local people. A Neighbourhood Plan should be responsive to the needs and aspirations of your community.

Neighbourhood Plans can vary widely, they can be general in nature or can contain detailed policies, and they can also allocate land for development. They should not be used to stop development and must conform to the strategic policies in the adopted Local Plan.

The Localism Act 2011 has reformed the planning system to enable local people to have a say in developing planning policy for their local area. Neighbourhood forums/community groups/parish councils are established first as the 'qualifying body' (QB) to work on producing the Plan. Neighbourhood planning stages are summarised below:

- Step 1 – Designating the neighbourhood area - The QB submits application to local planning authority (LPA) to designate a neighbourhood area.
- Step 2 – Assessing options, gathering evidence - The QB prepares the draft plan,
- Step 3 – Pre-submission consultation - The QB publicises the draft Plan and invites feedback from the public.
- Step 4 – Submission stage - The QB sends the draft plan to the LPA to check legal compliance;
- Step 5 – Independent examination – Subject to the LPA checking that the plan is legally compliant, the plan is sent for independent examination;
- Step 6 – The Examiner reports back and recommends whether the plan meets the 'basic conditions' for neighbourhood plan making and should proceed to referendum;
- Step 7 – Following a positive recommendation by the Examiner, the Council then has to take its own decision on whether the plan meets 'basic conditions' and can proceed to referendum;
- **Step 8 – The referendum is held;**
- Step 9 – If the referendum returns a majority vote in favour of the plan, the Council has to 'make' the plan. By making the plan the Council formally adopts the plan and it is brought into legal force as part of the local development plan.

What is a Development Plan?

In England, the starting point for decision-making for planning applications is the Development Plan (unless material considerations indicate otherwise). The Development Plan is a set of documents that set out policies for the development and use of land across Poole. This is comprised of:

- Poole Core Strategy (adopted 2009)
- Site Specific Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD (adopted 2012)
- Delivering Poole's Infrastructure DPD (adopted 2012).

For further information on registering to vote by proxy or other voting queries, please click <http://www.poole.gov.uk/your-council/> or contact Borough of Poole: Tel: 01202 633097.

For further information on neighbourhood planning, please contact planning@poole.gov.uk or Tel: 01202 633321.