

Woburn Sands Neighbourhood Plan Referendum Information for Voters

On 22 May 2014, there will be a referendum on a neighbourhood plan for your area. This note explains the referendum that is going to take place and how you can take part in it. In this note 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 are a 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 ballot paper with this question:

Do you want Milton Keynes Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Woburn Sands to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?

How do I vote in the referendum?

You show your choice 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 Milton Keynes Council will use the Neighbourhood Plan to help it decide planning applications in Woburn Sands.

The Neighbourhood Plan will then become part of the Development Plan.

In Milton Keynes Council's area the development plan consists of the Milton Keynes Core Strategy (adopted July 2013) and the Milton Keynes Local Plan 2005.

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

In Woburn Sands, the boundary of the neighbourhood area was determined by Milton Keynes Council and is identical to the parish area of Woburn Sands Town Council.

Who can prepare a Neighbourhood Plan?

Neighbourhood plans are prepared by town or parish councils, or neighbourhood forums. Normally, planning is the responsibility of the local

planning authority. In this case, the Woburn Sands Neighbourhood Plan was prepared by Woburn Sands 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.