

Forest of Dean District Council

Berry Hill, Christchurch and Edge End Neighbourhood Area

Planning Referendum Information Sheet

Referendum: Thursday 15 February 2018

On Thursday 15 February 2018, there will be a referendum on a neighbourhood development plan within part of the Parish of West Dean. This information sheet explains more about the referendum that will be taking place and how you can participate. For further information on the plan you can find relevant detailed documents and a copy of the plan via [Forest of Dean District Council's website](#): Neighbourhood Planning – Berry Hill, Christchurch and Edge End.

What is a referendum?

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 Forest of Dean District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Berry Hill, Christchurch and Edge End to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”

You vote by putting a cross (X) in the box next to your choice on the ballot paper. Do not mark the ballot paper in any other way or your vote may not count.

If more people vote “yes” than “no” in the referendum, then the Forest of Dean District Council will use the Neighbourhood Development Plan to help it decide planning applications in the Berry Hill, Christchurch and Edge End neighbourhood area.

The Neighbourhood Plan once adopted will then become part of the Development Plan used by Forest of Dean District Council to approve or reject planning applications within the area.

If more people vote “no” than “yes”, planning applications will be decided without reference to the Neighbourhood Plan.

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. The plan can show how the community wants land to be used and developed in its area.

What is a neighbourhood area?

Neighbourhood area can cover single street or large urban or rural areas. The boundaries of a neighbourhood area are put forward by a parish or town council.

Who can prepare a Neighbourhood Plan?

Neighbourhood plans are prepared by or on behalf of town or parish councils. In this case the Berry Hill, Christchurch and Edge End Neighbourhood Development Plan was prepared by West Dean Parish Council.

What is a Development Plan?

In England, planning applications are determined by local planning authorities in accordance with the Development Plan and any other material considerations. In the Forest of Dean District Council the current Development Plan is made up of the

- Core Strategy (adopted 2012),
- Cinderford Northern Quarter Area Action Plan (adopted 2012),
- the emerging Allocations Plan,
- the Lydney Neighbourhood Development Plan and
- the County adopted minerals and waste planning documents.

The documents that make up the Development Plan set out the policies for the development and use of land across the entire local authority area. If the Berry Hill, Christchurch and Edge End Neighbourhood Development Plan passes the referendum and is then made it will form part of the Development Plan when deciding planning applications within the neighbourhood area

Who is the Planning Authority?

Within Forest of Dean District, the local planning authority is Forest of Dean District Council. Where a Neighbourhood plan has passed its examination it is the District Council who is responsible for undertaking the referendum.