Forest of Dean District Council
Lydney Neighbourhood Area
Planning Referendum Information Sheet

Referendum: Thursday 7th January 2027

On **Thursday 7th January 2027**, there will be a referendum on a neighbourhood development plan within the parish of **Lydney**. 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 the: Neighbourhood Planning – Neighbourhood Plans in Development - Lydney NDP webpage

What is a referendum?

A referendum asks you to vote "yes" or "no" to a question. For this referendum the question on the ballot paper will be:

"Do you want Forest of Dean District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Lydney 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 Lydney neighbourhood area.

The Neighbourhood Plan once adopted will then be taken into account when the District Council or a planning inspector is deciding planning applications in the area.

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

Who can vote in the referendum?

The Referendum only relates to the area which is covered by the proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan. It is only those who are entitled to vote in the Referendum and who are registered to vote within addresses in the designated Neighbourhood Area who can vote upon the question of whether the Neighbourhood Development Plan should be taken into account by the Council when determining planning applications.

Neighbourhood Plans

What is Neighbourhood Planning?

Neighbourhood planning was introduced under the Localism Act 2011 and 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.

Who can prepare a Neighbourhood Plan?

Within the Forest of Dean District, Neighbourhood plans are prepared by or on behalf of town or parish councils. In this case the revised Lydney Neighbourhood Development Plan was prepared by Lydney Town Council.

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?
A Neighbourhood Development Plan, often just referred to as a Neighbourhood Plan, sets out policies in relation to the development and use of land in all or any part of a particular designated Neighbourhood Area. The Neighbourhood Development Plan must specify a period for which it is to have effect. Once made the Neighbourhood Development Plan becomes part of the Development Plan for the area.

What is a neighbourhood area?
Neighbourhood areas can cover a single street or large urban or rural areas. In the Forest of Dean District, the boundaries of a neighbourhood area are put forward by a parish or town council. The boundary of the neighbourhood area for the revised Lydney Neighbourhood Plan is as set out in the Area Map.

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. Within the Forest of Dean District, the local planning authority is Forest of Dean District Council. 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. 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 Allocations Plan (adopted June 2018)
- the original Lydney Neighbourhood Development Plan
- the Longhope Neighbourhood Development Plan
- the Berry Hill, Christchurch and Edge End Neighbourhood Development Plan
- the Coleford Neighbourhood Plan
- the Mitcheldean Neighbourhood Development Plan
- the Alvington Neighbourhood Development Plan
- the Dymock Neighbourhood Development Plan
- the Forest Edge South Neighbourhood Development Plan
- the Huntley Neighbourhood Development Plan and
- the County adopted minerals and waste planning documents.

If the **Lydney** Neighbourhood Development Plan referendum vote is in favour of the revised neighbourhood development plan and is then made, it will replace the original Lydney Neighbourhood Development Plan and form part of the Development Plan when deciding planning applications within the within the Parish of **Lydney**.

What is the process for a Neighbourhood Development Plan?
There is a statutory process which must be followed for preparing and 'making' a Neighbourhood Development Plan which includes provision for its independent examination and the holding of a Referendum in relation to the draft plan which is proposed.

An independent Examiner checks that the proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan meets the basic standards which are set out in statute. The Independent Examiner may recommend changes to be made to the Neighbourhood Development Plan in a report to the Local Planning Authority. It is the Local Planning Authority which considers the Examiner's report and decides, having regard to the statutory criteria, whether to accept the changes which the Examiner has proposed. The Independent Examiner may also recommend that the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan proceeds to Referendum. The Referendum only relates to the area which is covered by the proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan.
Where a neighbourhood plan has passed its examination it is the District Council who is responsible for undertaking the referendum.

Information in relation to neighbourhood planning is available on the following website:
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2