

Forest Edge South Neighbourhood Plan

Summary

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

A neighbourhood plan sets out the vision and policies to guide future development at the local level. It allows local residents to shape the places in which they live and work by influencing where future development will go and what it will look like.

West Dean Parish Council, led by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, has prepared a **Draft Neighbourhood Plan** which sets out policies and proposed site allocations for Forest Edge South. The Forest Edge South Neighbourhood Area covers the villages of Pillowell, Oldcroft, Viney Hill, Whitecroft, Parkend and Yorkley.

The Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the development plan for Forest of Dean District Council, and applications for new developments will be required to align with the Forest Edge South Neighbourhood Plan once it is adopted. This means that the Neighbourhood Plan will be considered by Planning Officers at the District Council when determining planning applications.



What policies are included in the Forest Edge South Neighbourhood Plan?

Part 3 of the neighbourhood plan outlines specific policies for Forest Edge South based around key policy themes, as summarised below:

Climate Change, Sustainability and Biodiversity

Policies **1 to 4** support developments that have sustainable design, include green spaces and biodiversity, provide allotments and community gardens and that favour renewable and low carbon energy.

Design and Environment

Policies **5 to 8** support developments that adhere to the Forest Edge South Design Guidance (2022), promote the conservation of heritage assets, and protect and enhance the local landscape character. The policies also identify 'non-designated heritage assets' and local green spaces, which will be protected through the Neighbourhood Plan.

Housing, Employment and Tourism

Policies **9 to 15** provides support for developments that prioritise smaller, affordable housing; specialist housing for older people; and First Homes, subject to certain criteria being met. Policies also support developments that facilitate home working, as well as infill developments that meets strict criteria. Sustainable employment growth and tourism-related development is also supported.

Transport and Access

Policies **16 to 18** provide support for planning applications that encourage use of sustainable transport modes and provide adequate on-site parking, including electric vehicle charging points. The development of a multi-use track between Lydney and Parkend is also supported.

Infrastructure and Amenities

Policies **19 to 22** provides support for new digital infrastructure, including broadband and telecommunications. Developments for new community facilities and small-scale retail are supported whilst important local facilities are listed for conservation and improvement.



How can I comment on the Draft Neighbourhood Plan?

We are undertaking a pre-submission consultation on the Draft Forest Edge South Neighbourhood Plan, as required by Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. This consultation runs from **26th March to 7th May 2023**. The Forest Edge South Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared to reflect the way in which residents of the six villages of Whitecroft, Parkend, Pillowell, Yorkley, Oldcroft and Viney Hill wish to see their area develop over the next 20 years.

This is your last chance to comment on the Draft Neighbourhood Plan before it is submitted to Forest of Dean District Council. Once the plan has been submitted there will be a final opportunity for submission of representations (Regulation 16), following which the plan will be examined by an independent examiner. Local residents will then be asked to vote on whether the final plan should be adopted through a local referendum.

A copy of the Draft Neighbourhood Plan and other supporting documents can be viewed online at: <https://fesndp.uk/>. Hard copies of the plan are also available to view Monday to Friday, 9:30am – 4:30pm at The Parish Office, The West Dean Centre, High Street, Bream, Lydney, GL15 6JW. You are also welcome to attend the consultation events that are being held throughout the Neighbourhood Plan area.

To contribute your views on the Draft Neighbourhood Plan please either:

- Complete a paper copy of the Comments Form and return this to: The Parish Office, The West Dean Centre, High Street, Bream, Lydney, GL15 6JW
- Complete an online version of the Comments Form available here: <https://fesndp.uk> or
- Email your comments to clerk@westdeanpc.org.uk

