



Braunton Neighbourhood Plan Referendum Results

On Thursday, 7 September 2023, seven years of dedicated hard work by volunteer members of the community were rewarded by a resounding vote YES to the question:

"Do you want North Devon District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Braunton Parish to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"

An overwhelming 90 per cent of voters said they would like the document to be used to help inform future decisions about development and planning applications in the area.

There were 1,042 votes 'yes', 114 votes 'no' and 0 rejected papers. The electorate was 6,428 with 1,156 ballot papers issued. The turnout was 17.9%.

Put simply, this means that residents agree that the policies about land use within the Plan, concerning housing and the need for more affordable homes, protection of green spaces and the natural environment, protection of buildings used as community assets and supporting our local economy will have full weight when planning applications or development proposals are considered by Planning Officers – planning power at the most local level,

focusing on the things that are important to those who live and work in Braunton.

The neighbourhood plan, which has been seven years in the making, was created by a steering group made up of individual members of the public and parish councillors. Parish Councillors and Steering Group Members are entirely voluntary roles and are not paid.

The Chairman of Braunton Parish Council Councillor Marguerite Shapland says "The adoption of the Braunton Area Neighbourhood Plan is a very important step forward in ensuring that the views of our community are taken into account when decisions are taken on planning applications. The Plan will provide for developments to meet the needs of the community and provide vital protections to our environment and local businesses."

The Neighbourhood Plan will be considered for formal adoption by North Devon District Council at their meeting on the 4th October 2023.



So we've had the referendum— what now?

Having developed this shared vision for our neighbourhood, the policies within the Braunton Parish Neighbourhood Plan will be used by the local planning authority when deciding planning applications within the Braunton Parish Neighbourhood Area.

A neighbourhood plan attains the same legal status as a local plan (and other documents that form part of the statutory development plan) once it has been approved at a referendum. At this point it comes into force as part of the statutory development plan. Applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

The plan can be reviewed and updated in the future. Material modifications

which do not change the nature of the plan would require examination but not a referendum. This might, for example, entail the addition of a site or sites which, subject to the decision of the independent examiner, are not so significant or substantial as to change the nature of the plan. Material modifications which do change the nature of the plan would require examination and a referendum.

The neighbourhood plan can be viewed at

<https://www.brauntonparishneighbourhoodplan.org.uk/>

On behalf of the community we would like to thank everyone involved in producing the plan and to members of the public who gave their input in shaping the policies. Lastly we would like to thank everyone who took the time to vote in favour of the plan at the recent referendum.

Braunton Parish Council



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Tracey Lovell, Clerk to the Council
Angela Corner, Senior Council Officer

Meeting Calendar 2023

Full Council meetings are now being held back in the Council Chamber and additional meetings, to primarily consider planning applications, are being held virtually.

Full Council Meeting, 7pm
Tuesday 10 October 2023

Additional Council Meeting, 7pm
Monday 23 October 2023

