



The Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) Regulations 2012

Regulation 4 Information Statement

Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan Referendum

1. About this statement

A referendum on the Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan will be held on **Thursday 10th January 2019**. This statement provides information on the referendum that is taking place, and the neighbourhood plan it relates to.

2. Referendum on the Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan

A referendum asks you to vote 'yes' or 'no' to a question. The question which will be asked in the referendum is:

Do you want Bromsgrove District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Alvechurch Parish to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?

If more than 50% of individuals vote 'yes' in the referendum, then Bromsgrove District Council will 'make' the Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan. If the Neighbourhood Plan is 'made' it will help determine planning applications in the Alvechurch Neighbourhood Area. It will thus form part of the statutory development plan for Bromsgrove District.

If more people vote 'no' than 'yes' then the Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan will not be made part of the statutory development plan for the neighbourhood area.

3. What is a neighbourhood area?

The neighbourhood area for Alvechurch is identified on the map shown in Annex 1 at the end of this information statement. The boundary of the neighbourhood area was approved by Bromsgrove District Council in January 2013 and replicates the boundary of Alvechurch Parish.

The referendum voting area is identical to the area which has been designated as the Alvechurch Neighbourhood Area. The independent examination of the Neighbourhood Plan recommended that the plan proceed to a referendum based on the extent of the designated neighbourhood area.

4. Am I entitled to vote in the referendum?

A person is entitled to vote in the referendum if:

- they are registered to vote in a local council elections in the referendum area; and
- they are 18 years of age or over on 10th January 2019.

You have to be registered to vote by Wednesday 19th December 2018 to vote in the referendum. You can check if you are registered to vote by calling 01527 881421.

The referendum will be conducted based in accordance with procedures similar to those used at local government elections.

5. How do I vote in the referendum?

There are three ways to vote in the referendum:

In person on 10th January 2019:

- At your local polling station; you will receive a poll card via post in advance of the referendum date, confirming your local polling station for this referendum.
- If you do not receive your poll card, you can contact the District Council on 01527 881421 or email us at elections@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk to find out where your nearest polling station is.
- The polling station(s) will be open from 7am to 10pm on the day of the referendum.

By post:

- If you have a postal vote already, you will receive a poll card confirming this.
- To set up a postal vote, you will need to complete an application form and send it to the Electoral Registration Officer to arrive by 5pm on Thursday 20th December 2018 at the following address:

Shared Electoral Services
Bromsgrove and Redditch Councils
Town Hall
Walter Stranz Square
Redditch
B98 8AH

- Postal votes can be sent overseas but you will need to think about whether you will have time to receive and return your completed postal vote by the 10th January 2019.
- You should receive your postal vote about a week before polling day for the referendum. If it does not arrive in time, you can ask for a replacement up to 5pm on 10th January 2019 by contacting the Council on 01527 881421.

By proxy:

- If you have a proxy vote already, you will receive a poll card confirming this.
- If you can't get to the polling station and don't wish to vote by post, you may be able to vote by proxy. This means allowing somebody that you trust to vote on your behalf.
- To vote by proxy, you will need to complete an application form and send it to the Electoral Registration Officer to arrive by 5pm on Wednesday 2nd January 2019 at the following address:

Shared Electoral Services
 Bromsgrove and Redditch Councils
 Town Hall
 Walter Stranz Square
 Redditch
 B98 8AH

- When you apply for a proxy vote, you must say why you cannot vote in person.
- Anyone can be your proxy as long as they are eligible to vote and are willing to vote on your behalf. You will need to tell them how you want to vote in the referendum.

Postal and proxy vote application forms are available from our helpline on 01527 881421 or by emailing elections@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
 You can also download application forms from the electoral commission's website at www.yourvotematters.co.uk/how-do-i-vote/voting-by-post

6. What are the referendum documents and where can you view them?

There are a number of documents that are available to view during the referendum period. These are listed below:

- The referendum version (as modified) of the Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan;

- The independent examiner's report on the draft Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan;
- A summary of representations made on the draft Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan which were submitted to the independent examiner;
- A Decision Statement from the District Council which confirms the Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions and other legislative requirements;
- A statement setting out general information regarding town and country planning, including neighbourhood planning, and the referendum.

A hard copy of the above documents and this Information Statement can be inspected at the following locations:

- Bromsgrove Library, Parkside, Market Street, Bromsgrove, B61 8DA
(Monday 9am-7pm, Tuesday-Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 10am-4pm)
- Alvechurch Library, Birmingham Road, Alvechurch, B48 7TA (Monday-Tuesday 9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm, Thursday 2pm-5pm, Friday 9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm, and Saturday 10am-1pm and 2pm-4pm)
- Council Offices, Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH
(Monday-Friday 9am-5pm)

In addition, all of the documents can be viewed online on the District Council's website at <http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/alvechurchnp> or the Parish Council neighbourhood plan website at <https://alvechurchparishplan.org/>

In addition to the above listed documents, neighbourhood plan supporting information including a Basic Conditions Statement, Consultation Statement and Evidence Base Summary document, can also be viewed online.

7. Referendum Expenses

Expenses can be incurred by an individual or body for referendum purposes in advance of the referendum.

The referendum expenses limit that will apply in relation to this referendum is £2632.34. The number of persons entitled to vote in the referendum is 4,582.

8. How to find out more

Further general information on neighbourhood planning is available on the District Council's website at <http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/council/policy-and-strategy/planning-policies/neighbourhood-plans.aspx>

For any other queries regarding the neighbourhood plan, please contact the Strategic Planning team at the District Council on 01527 587010 or strategicplanning@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

For any other queries regarding the referendum process, including how to vote, please contact the District Council's Electoral Services on 01527 881421.

Annex 1 - Map of Neighbourhood Area and Referendum Area

