

Ryton On Dunsmore Neighbourhood Planning Referendum

Information Statement for Voters

On 6 May 2021, there will be a referendum on a neighbourhood plan in Ryton on Dunsmore. This statement explains more about the referendum and how you can take part in it.

Referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan

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 Rugby Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Ryton on Dunsmore to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”

How do I vote in the referendum?

You vote by putting a cross (X) in the 'Yes' or 'No' box on your ballot paper. Put a cross in only **one** box or your vote will not be counted.

If more people vote 'yes' than 'no' in this referendum, then Rugby Borough Council will use the Neighbourhood Development Plan to help it decide planning applications in this local area.

If more people vote 'no' than 'yes', then planning applications will be decided without using the Neighbourhood Development Plan as part of the Development Plan for the local area.

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

What is a Neighbourhood area?

A neighbourhood area can cover single streets or large urban or rural areas. The boundaries of a neighbourhood area are put forward by:

- Town or parish councils
- A neighbourhood forum (a group of at least 21 people in areas without town or parish councils)

Who can prepare a Neighbourhood Plan?

Neighbourhood plans are prepared by town or parish councils, or neighbourhood forums

What is a Development Plan?

In England, planning applications are determined by local planning authorities in accordance with the Development Plan. 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. Within the Rugby Borough, the local planning authority is Rugby Borough Council.

Neighbourhood Planning in Ryton on Dunsmore

The Referendum area is identified on the map (appendix 1).

Specified documents

The Ryton-on-Dunsmore Neighbourhood Plan, Examiner's Report and consultation documents can be viewed on Rugby Borough Council's website at:

www.rugby.gov.uk/info/20004/planning_strategy/332/ryton-on-dunsmore_neighbourhood_plan

To request hard copies of documents, email localplan@rugby.gov.uk

Can I vote?

You can vote in the referendum if you live in the Ryton on Dunsmore area as identified in the map and:

- you are registered to vote in local council elections, and
- you are 18 years of age or over on 6 May 2021

You have to be registered to vote by **19 April 2021** to vote in the referendum. You can check if you are registered to vote by calling our helpline on (01788) 533595.

The referendum will be conducted based on procedures which are similar to those used at local government elections.

Ways of voting?

There are three ways of voting:

In person:

In person at the polling station on Thursday 6 May 2021, it is easy, and a member of staff will always help if you are not sure what to do.

Ryton on Dunsmore Village Hall, High Street, Ryton on Dunsmore CV8 3EY

You will receive a poll card confirming your polling station for this referendum. If you do not receive your poll card you can contact our helpline on (01788) 533595 or email us on elections@rugby.gov.uk however you do not need it to vote.

The polling station will be open from 7am to 10pm.

By post:

- If you have a postal vote already, you will receive a poll card confirming this

- To vote by post, you will need to complete an application form and send it to the Electoral Registration Officer to arrive **by 5pm on 20 April 2021** at this address:

Rugby Borough Council
Town Hall, Evreux Way
Rugby
Warwickshire CV21 2RR

Postal votes can be sent overseas but you need to think about whether you will have time to receive and return your completed postal vote by close of poll on 6 May 2021

You should receive your postal vote around 16 April 2021. If it does not arrive, you can ask for a replacement from Thursday 29 April 2021 up to 5pm on 6 May 2021 by contacting our helpline on (01788) 533595.

By proxy:

- If you have a proxy vote already, your proxy will receive a poll card confirming this
- If you cannot get to the polling station and do not wish to vote by post, you may be able to vote by proxy. This means appointing someone 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 27 April 2021** at this address:

Rugby Borough Council
Town Hall, Evreux Way
Rugby
Warwickshire CV21 2RR

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 have to tell them how you want to vote.

Postal and proxy vote application forms are available from our helpline on (01788) 533595 or by emailing: elections@rugby.gov.uk or visit: www.yourvotematters.co.uk

Am I registered to vote?

If you're not registered, you won't be able to vote. You can check if you are registered by calling our helpline on (01788) 533595

If you are not registered to vote, you can register on line at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote or you will need to complete a voter registration form and send it to the Electoral Registration Officer to arrive **by midnight on Monday 19 April 2021** at this address:

Rugby Borough Council
Town Hall, Evreux Way
Rugby
Warwickshire CV21 2RR

Registration forms are available from our helpline on (01788) 533595 or by emailing elections@rugby.gov.uk or register on line at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

How to find out more:

- Further general information on neighbourhood planning is available at https://www.rugby.gov.uk/homepage/49/neighbourhood_planning
- For queries relating to Ryton on Dunsmore neighbourhood plan and neighbourhood planning in general, please contact the council's development team on (01788) 533735
- For more information about voting and the arrangements for this referendum, please contact our helpline on (01788) 533595 or email: elections@rugby.gov.uk

Dated March 2021

Appendix 1

Ryton on Dunsmore Neighbourhood Area Map



