Horsham District Council

THAKEHAM

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

REFERENDUM

INFORMATION FOR VOTERS

About this booklet

On 22 March 2017, there will be a referendum on a neighbourhood development plan for Thakeham Parish. This booklet explains more about the referendum that is going to take place and how you can take part in it. In this booklet you can find out about:

- The referendum and how you can take part
- The neighbourhood area
- The neighbourhood plan
- The development plan [of which neighbourhood plans are part]

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 Horsham District Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Thakeham Parish 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 Horsham District Council will use the Neighbourhood Development Plan to help it decide planning applications in Thakeham.

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?

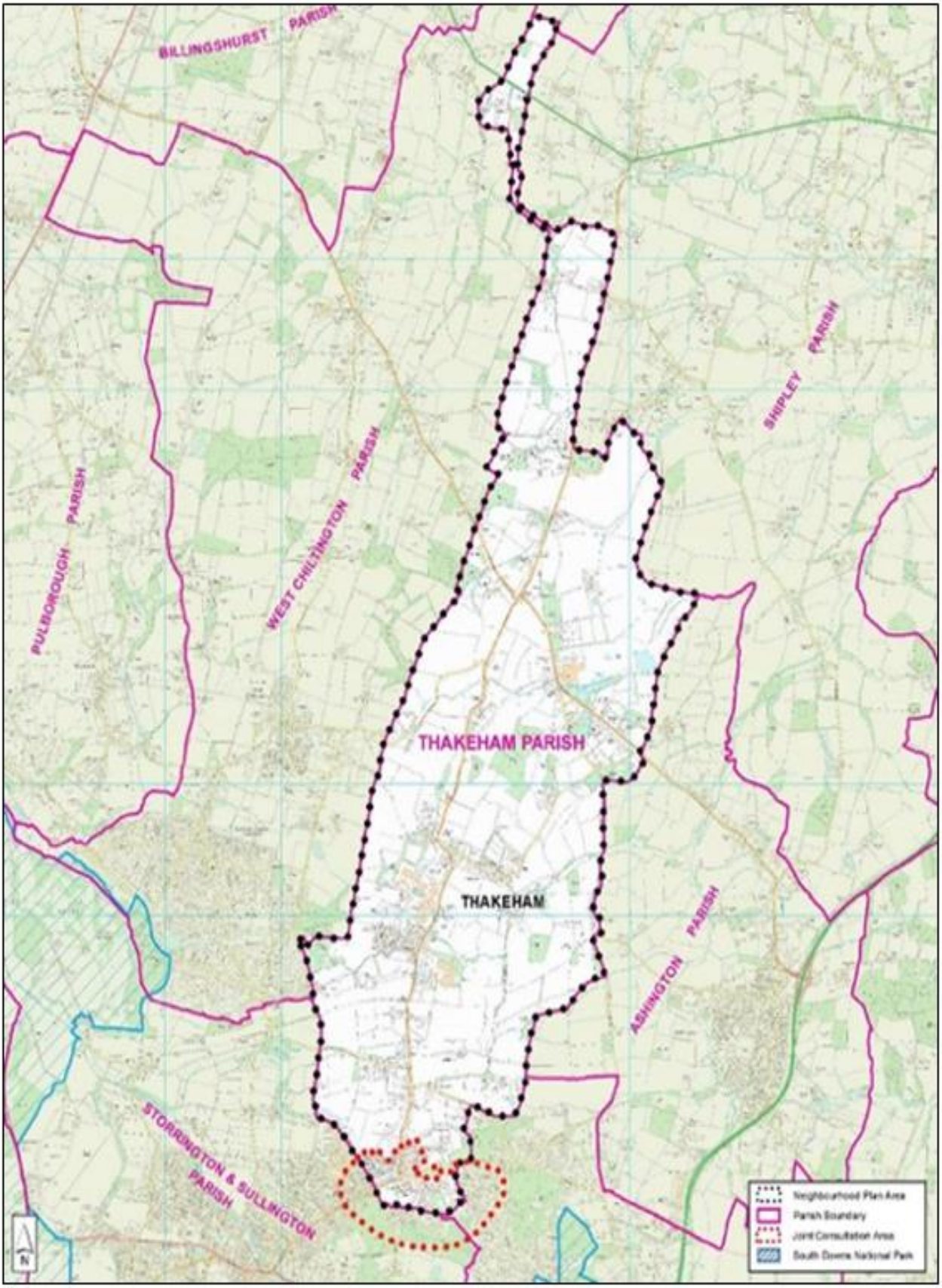
Neighbourhood plans are prepared by town or parish councils, or neighbourhood forums. In this case, the Thakeham Neighbourhood Development Plan was prepared by Thakeham Parish Council.

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 Horsham District, the local planning authority is Horsham District Council.

Neighbourhood Planning in Thakeham

The Referendum area is identified on the map overleaf. The area for the referendum is the designated neighbourhood plan area and extended to include the ‘joint consultation area’ as shown on Plan A in the plan by a red dotted line covering adjoining parts of the parishes of Washington and Storrington and Sullington (see Plan A).



Plan A: The Designated Thakeham Neighbourhood Area

Can I vote?

An elector is entitled to vote in the referendum on the **22 March 2017** if the following is true:

- The elector is entitled to vote in a local government election in the referendum area; and
- The elector's qualifying address for the referendum is in the referendum area. A persons qualifying address in, in relation to a person registered in the register of electors, the address in respect of which he or she is entitled to be registered.

You must be registered to vote by Monday 7 March 2017 to vote in the referendum. You can check if you are registered to vote by calling our Helpline on 01403 215126.

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 on 22 March 2017:

- At your local polling station. You will receive a poll card confirming your polling station for this referendum
- In Thakeham the polling station is:
  - Thakeham Village Hall, Linfield Sports Ground, Storrington Road, Thakeham RH20 3EJ
- If you do not receive your poll card, you can contact our Helpline on 01403 215126 or email us at: elections@horsham.gov.uk
- Polling stations are 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 Tuesday 7 March 2017 at this address:

  Horsham District Council
  Parkside
  Chart Way
  Horsham
  RH12 1RL

- 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 22 March 2017
- You should receive your postal vote about a week before polling day. If it doesn't arrive in time, you can ask for a replacement up to 5pm 22 March 2017 by contacting our Helpline on 01403 215126

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 Tuesday 14 March 2017 at this address:

  Horsham District Council
  Parkside
  Chart Way
  Horsham
  RH12 1RL

- 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 on our website at: www.horsham.gov.uk/electionspages/elections/voting
If you cannot download a form please email us at: elections@horsham.gov.uk or call us on: 01403 215126.

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 emailing us at: elections@horsham.gov.uk or calling us on: 01403 215126.

If you are not registered to vote, you will need to complete your registration application by midnight on Monday 6 March 2017. You can register online at

www.gov.uk/register-to-vote with your national insurance number. If you do not have access to the internet please call 01403 215581 or complete a registration form and send it to the Electoral Registration Officer to arrive by Monday 6 March 2017 at this address:

Horsham District Council
Parkside
Chart Way
Horsham
RH12 1RL

How to find out more:

- Further general information on neighbourhood planning is available at: www.horsham.gov.uk/planning/neighbourhood-planning
- For queries about planning issues and neighbourhood planning in general, please contact planning on: Tel: 01403 215187
- For more information about voting and the arrangements for this referendum, please call 01403 215126 or email: elections@horsham.gov.uk

The documents can be viewed at:

- https://www.horsham.gov.uk/planning/neighbourhood-planning/parish-neighbourhood-plans
- Horsham District Council, Parkside, Chart Way, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1RL between 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday.
- Thakeham Parish Council Offices, Storrington Road, Thakeham, Pulborough West Sussex RH20 3EJ
- Storrington Library, Ryecroft Lane, Storrington, Pulborough West Sussex RH20 4PA