

Englefield Green Village Neighbourhood Plan Referendum Information Statement

1. Purpose of this information statement

A referendum on the Englefield Green Village Neighbourhood Plan will be held on Wednesday 13 December 2023. This statement provides information on the referendum that is taking place and how to take part in it.

2. What are Neighbourhood Plans?

Neighbourhood planning was introduced under the Localism Act 2011 and gives new rights and powers to help local communities shape new development in their local area. It enables communities to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and develop local policies for determining planning applications.

In Runnymede, neighbourhood plans are prepared by neighbourhood forums. The local community can decide what to include in a neighbourhood plan, but it must meet 'basic conditions' as set out in legislation.

3. The Englefield Green Village Neighbourhood Plan

The Englefield Green Village Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by Englefield Green Village Neighbourhood Forum. The Forum established an area which the plan applies to, and this is detailed in the map below. The boundary of the Englefield Green Village Neighbourhood Area was designated on 13 November 2019. The referendum area is identical to the area that has been designated as the Englefield Green Village Neighbourhood Area. People who live within the neighbourhood area can vote on the neighbourhood plan.

The Englefield Green Village Neighbourhood Plan has been produced in accordance with the statutory requirements. An independent examination took place on the plan, which recommended with some modifications the plan could proceed to referendum.

4. Referendum on the Englefield Green Village Neighbourhood Plan

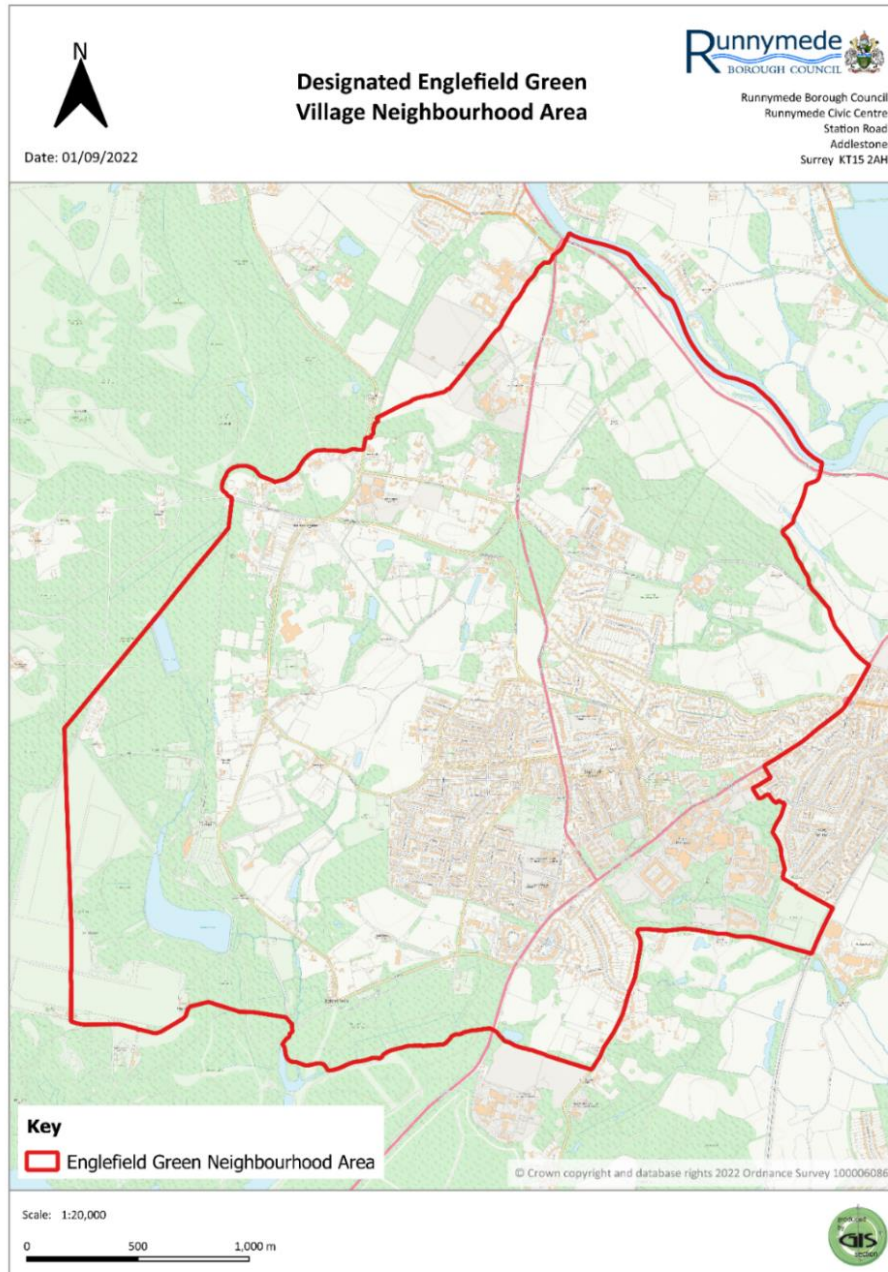
A referendum asks you to vote 'yes' or 'no' on a specific question. For this referendum you will receive a Ballot Paper which asks the following question:

'Do you want Runnymede Borough Council to use the Englefield Green Village Neighbourhood Plan to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'

5. What does the Referendum result mean?

If more than half of those voting in the referendum have voted in favour of the plan the council must 'make' i.e. adopt the neighbourhood plan, as soon as reasonably practical. It will become part of the statutory development plan for the area to be used in determining decision on planning applications.

Map of Englefield Green Village Neighbourhood Area



6. Can I vote in the Referendum?

A person is entitled to vote in the Englefield Green Village Neighbourhood Plan Referendum if on the 13 December 2023:

- He or she is entitled to vote in a local government election in the referendum area; and
- His or her qualifying address for the election is in the referendum area.

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

In order to vote in the referendum, you must be registered to vote by 5pm on Monday 27 November 2023. Electors who are currently on the register at a qualifying address do not need to make a new registration in order to vote at this poll.

7. How and where can I vote?

There are three ways of voting, you may vote in person, by post or by proxy:

In person:

At your local Polling Station on Wednesday 13 December –

Jurgens Centre, Adj to the Catholic Church, 91 Harvest Road, Englefield Green TW20 0RR

Forest Estate Community Hub, 57 Larchwood Drive, Englefield Green, TW20 0SL

Students Union Building, RHUL, Egham Hill

- between 7.00 am and 10.00 pm.

If you do not want to vote in person on polling day, you can either vote by post or proxy.

By Post:

If you already have a Postal Vote you will receive a Postal Poll card confirming this and Postal Vote Pack with your Ballot Paper.

If you do not have a Postal Vote, but would like to vote by post in the referendum, please complete a Postal Vote Application form. Applications can be made online at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote>.

To complete a paper application contact elec.services@runnymede.gov.uk

The deadline for us to receive your Postal Vote application is 5pm on Tuesday 28 November 2023. You should get your postal vote about a week before polling day. If it does not arrive in time, you can be issued with from Thursday 7 December until 5pm on 13 December.

By Proxy:

If you are unable to vote in person you can ask someone to vote on your behalf. This is called a proxy vote. Details on applying to vote by Proxy and application forms can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote>.

The deadline for us to receive your Proxy vote application is 5pm on Tuesday 5 December 2023. After this date you can still apply for an Emergency Proxy Vote if your circumstances meet certain criteria. Information on how to apply for an emergency proxy is available on <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voting-person-post-or-proxy/voting-proxy> or by phone on 01932 425653.

8. How to mark your ballot paper

You should show your choice by putting a cross (X) in the box next to your choice on the Ballot Paper.

Put a cross in only ONE box and do not mark your Ballot Paper in any other way. If the Counting Officer is not able to clearly understand what your intention was your vote will not be counted.

9. Referendum Expenses

Expenses can be incurred by an individual or body during the period of the referendum for referendum purposes.

The referendum expenses limit that will apply in relation to this referendum is £2,721.25 (i.e. £2,362 plus £0.059 for each entry in the relevant register of electors, as defined in the Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) Regulations 2012).

The number of entries in the relevant register (i.e. in the year immediately proceeding that in which the referendum is being held) is 6089.

10. The Englefield Green Village Neighbourhood Plan and other documents

The plan and other documents¹ as listed below, can be seen online at <https://www.runnymede.gov.uk/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/4>.

The specified documents are:

- The Englefield Green Village Neighbourhood Plan (Referendum version),
- The independent examiners report into the Englefield Green Village Neighbourhood Plan,
- The summary of representations submitted to the examiner,
- The Decision Statement of the Local Planning Authority (Runnymede Borough Council) as published on 10 October 2023, which confirms the Local Planning Authority is satisfied that the draft Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions specified by statute and complies with the provisions made by or under section 38A and 38B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
- A statement that sets out the general information as to Town and Country Planning (including neighbourhood planning) and the referendum.

11. Viewing electronic and hard copy versions of the information

The information is available on the Runnymede Borough Council neighbourhood planning website: <https://www.runnymede.gov.uk/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/4>.

Hard copies of the documentation are also available to view at the Civic Centre in Addlestone, the Neighbourhood Area's community buildings, and the nearest library in Egham:

Civic Offices: Station Road, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 2AH.

¹ Plan and other documents – known as 'specified documents', detailed in regulation 4(3)(b) of the Neighbourhood Planning (Referendum) Regulations 2012 (as amended)

Opening times: 8.30am – 5pm Monday – Thursday, 8.30am – 4.30pm Friday.

The Hub, Englefield Green: 57 Larchwood Drive, Englefield Green, Egham TW20 0SL.

Opening times: 8am – 11.30pm Monday-Sunday.

The Village Centre: 68 Victoria Street, Englefield Green, Egham TW20 0QX.

Opening times: 9am – 2pm Monday – Friday.

Egham Library: High Street, Egham, Surrey TW20 9EA.

Opening times: 9.30am – 5pm Tuesday – Saturday.

12. How to find out more

Further information on neighbourhood planning in Runnymede can be found at www.runnymede.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning.