



Yaxham Neighbourhood Plan

NP4Yaxham - Newsletter

Issue 8

Yaxham – one village – one community.

Breckland Council has confirmed;

**Referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan for Yaxham
will be on 4th May 2017 – only 4 weeks to go!**

This is the **first** Neighbourhood Plan in Breckland to be voted on in a Referendum.

So, why are we having a Referendum, and why now?

This is the last stage of the Neighbourhood Plan process – it is to formally check whether the Plan is or is not supported by the residents of the Parish of Yaxham. This follows the earlier stages:

- October-November 2015, Breckland agreed that preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan could start
- November 2015-March 2016, parish consultation, identifying issues & options, and drafting policies
- April-July 2016, formal consultation before submitting the Neighbourhood Plan to Breckland Council
- August-October 2016, the Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to Breckland Council for consultation
- November 2016-February 2017 the Neighbourhood Plan underwent an Independent Examination

If a majority of those who vote support the Neighbourhood Plan then it will be “made” and included when Breckland Council considers planning applications.

This is why after completing survey forms, coming to meetings and drop-in sessions all the eligible electors are now being asked to vote in the **Referendum**.

The question which will be asked in the Referendum is:

"Do you want Breckland Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Yaxham to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"

The Polling Station will be at the Yaxham Village Hall, 7am-10pm, Thursday 4th May 2017.

This is the same day as the County Council elections.

Additional information about Neighbourhood planning is available on the Breckland Council website:

<http://www.breckland.gov.uk/article/4284/Neighbourhood-Plans>

See the Referendum Plan up to Voting Day - 4th May 2017 at:

❖ Yaxham Primary School entrance, Clint Green

❖ St Peter's Church, Church Lane, Yaxham

❖ <http://www.breckland.gov.uk/article/4284/Neighbourhood-Plan>

❖ Dereham Library

❖ Breckland Council Offices

❖ <http://www.np4yaxham.com>

Included are: the Referendum Information Statement, the Referendum Plan, Independent Examiner's Report, Summary of Representations, Basic Conditions Statement, and General information about Neighbourhood Plans.

Neighbourhood Plan for Yaxham Referendum

What is Neighbourhood Planning?

Neighbourhood planning aims to help local communities play a direct role in influencing planning the areas in which they live and work. **The Neighbourhood Plan** shows how the community wants land to be used and developed in its area. It is a **development plan** document that, if voted for in the **referendum**, will support Breckland Council's decision-making as the Planning Authority.

In Yaxham the boundary of the **Neighbourhood Area** is the whole of the **Parish of Yaxham**.

The Yaxham Neighbourhood Plan was prepared by the NP4Yaxham Working Group, a sub-committee of Yaxham Parish Council.

Make sure you can vote on Thursday 4th May 2017

You can vote in the referendum if you live in the parish of Yaxham and:

- You are registered to vote in Local Council Elections; and
- You are 18 years of age or over on Thursday 4th May 2017.

You should now have received a yellow Poll Card confirming you can vote. If you have not received a polling card then please call Electoral Services on 01362 656870. Thursday 13th April 2017 is the deadline to be registered to vote in the referendum. You can check if you are registered to vote by calling Electoral Services on 01362 656870. The referendum will be conducted on procedures which are similar to those used at local government elections.

Ways of voting - There are three ways of voting:

- You can vote in person at the Yaxham Village Hall, 7am-10pm on Thursday 4th May 2017
- By post if you have a postal vote already or you can apply for one by 5pm, Tuesday, 18th April 2017 from (address below)
- By proxy if you have a proxy vote already or you can apply for one by 5pm, Tuesday, 25th April 2017 from Electoral Services, Breckland Council (address below)

For further information on the Referendum Vote contact Electoral Services, Breckland Council, Elizabeth House, Walpole Loke, Dereham, NR19 1EE or see Breckland Council website:

<http://www.breckland.gov.uk/article/4486/Yaxham-Neighbourhood-Plan-Referendum>

Vote in the Referendum on 4th May 2017 – don't forget!

Dereham Town Council's Plans to Expand Dereham towards Yaxham

Find out more: <http://derehamtc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/>

Go to the Planned Drop-in session: Dereham Memorial Hall 12th April 3-8pm.

Come to Yaxham Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm 20th April 2017 at the Yaxham Village Hall Meeting Room, to learn more Dereham Town Council's proposals and tell the Parish Council what you think.